■ SPORTS/A24

Iñigo Zobel stars as Blues rip Blacks in polo opener; Greens also win

■ WORLD/A10

More kids fall ill to bird flu in Turkey

■ BUSINESS/B1

RP firms among most optimistic for 2006, says global survey

■ ENTERTAINMENT/A2-1

Smiles for photo-ops during MMFF awards give way to protests

Roxas demeaning OFW heroism, says Palace

By Christine O. Avendaño and Michael Lim Ubac

MALACAÑANG AND PROADMINISTRATION lawmakers yesterday took offense at Sen. Manuel Roxas II's statement that a strong peso was meaningless unless this translated to lower prices.

ROXAS/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Estrada camp turns cold to alliance plan

By TJ Burgonio

AFTER BEING LEFT OUT in the cold, the camp of indicted ex-President Joseph Estrada isn't so keen anymore on forging an alliance with former

ESTRADA/ A18

KUNG WALA, EH DI WALA!

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Monday, January 9, 2006 ★★ 4 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 32 P18
website: www.inq7.net

2 senators press RP custody of 4 GIs

Cite case of arrested US sailor in Japan

By TJ Burgonio, Leila B. Salaverria and Nikko Dizon

THE PHILIPPINES should take its cue from Japan and stop acting "like colonials" in seeking custody of four US Marines charged with raping a Filipino woman, Senators Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Richard Gordon said yesterday.

"I guess our DFA (Department of Foreign Affairs) officials can use Japan as an example," Pimentel said in a text message. "We're a second-rate country that's run by third-rate officials who act like colonials," said the Senate minority leader.

Gordon said the Department of Justice and the DFA "should have a stronger backbone in asserting that custody, judicially and diplomatically, is of paramount importance to our people."

"This will lead to a healthier relationship between the United States and the Philippines. Otherwise, Filipinos will always feel that they're victims throughout history because we did not assert enough to have a relationship of first among equals," he said.

In Japan, police arrested a US sailor they had accused of robbing and fatally beating a woman in a case that could stoke opposition to the American military presence in the country.

The US Navy handed over William Oliver Reese, 21, to Kanagawa Prefectural Police on Saturday to face charges in the Jan. 3 killing, The Associated Press said in a dispatch from Tokyo.

Japanese authorities say Reese also robbed Yoshie Sato, 56, of

2 SENATORS/ A6

PATRICIA Dongallo poses with her two sons—Gian Luigi, 15, and Justine Miguel, 10—who are afflicted with a rare disease. She is appealing for public support to keep her children well. JOAN BONDOC

Single mom keeps alive hope of 2 miracles

By Volt Contreras

AFTER LOSING THREE SONS to the same inborn disease, single mom Patricia Dongallo thought her calvary was over. Then she found that her remaining two boys had the same disease and could suffer the same fate.

Now every morning, she wakes from a fitful sleep, afraid that her boys had left her during the night.

Where do you begin to tell the story of Patricia?

Do you start by describing her courage and faith? In spite of her tragedies, Patricia says she still talks to God. She often finds herself "saying my deepest prayers when I'm in the bathroom, where no one, especially my kids, can see me at my weakest."

Do you explain the mysterious disease, which had afflicted her family a generation ago and taken two brothers? Patricia's five children, three of them dead before reaching puberty, were diagnosed with

SINGLE/ A4

FVR, Cory, Erap unity: The politics of dead end

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

ALTHOUGH THE AGENDA OF the Jan. 2 meeting among former President Fidel V. Ramos, Senate President Franklin Drilon and former Sen. Vicente Sotto III has remained unclear, the encounter has given birth to the idea of the formation of a new triumvirate of transitional leadership to replace President Macapagal-Arroyo.

According to press reports, the proposed triumvirate is to be composed of three former Presidents—Corazon Aquino, Joseph Estrada and Ramos. It is argued that all three can command a broad aggregate national constituency to support a movement to press the resignation of Ms Arroyo.

But this is merely reshuffling an old deck of cards. This approach leads us to a dead end.

Whether the Jan. 2 meeting considered this option is now less significant than the fact that the political debate of 2006 is already moving toward the search of a post-Arroyo transition. Although this development seeks to bypass the people power option, it is ominous for Ms Arroyo.

While neither Aquino, Ramos nor Estrada has shown enthusiasm for this improbable alliance, this represents another counterelite reconfiguration designed to replace in power an elite faction that has lost broad popular support, is now under continuing siege and is in danger of losing further some of its key allies, among them Ramos himself.

Thus, for those who want a total leadership change from top to bottom within a constitutional system, the choice between mob rule and another elite reconfigu-

FVR/ A4

DOING GOOD IN BAD TIMES

Young consumers prefer e-load to eating

By Clarissa S. Batino

(Second of three parts)

SPECIAL REPORT

IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT IF A Filipino had only a few pesos in his pocket and both his stomach and his cell phone were empty, he would choose to "top up" [load] his phone rather than chow down or buy a soda.

That wasn't how it used to be.

Ten or even five years ago, when text messaging was already a big hit, essentials like food and drinks, along with condiments like cooking oil and vinegar, and personal effects like shampoo, were still hard to topple from the consumer charts.

Come 2003 and things started to change.

Mobile phone operators introduced cell phone loads in "sachets." They don't come in small packs but are sold in denominations as low as P25, are transferred through text messaging, and are available in almost every neighborhood corner.

Now, three out of five *sari-sari* stores in Verdant Subdivision in Las Piñas City are selling these loads like hot cakes—their sales surpassing those of canned sardines, junk food, soda, shampoo and even cigarettes sold "*tingi*," or piece-meal.

Emerita Nario, a 52-year-old single parent, relies on her mom and pop store in the subdivision to get by, selling more than P1,500 worth of load a day. Of the total sales from the phone load, she gets P210, a profit of 14 percent.

There are days when Nario can't sell a bottle of soda or a can of luncheon meat or even a sachet of shampoo. But orders for cell phone load, even when she went

YOUNG/ A18

How to start an e-load business

1. ALL ONE NEEDS TO GET GOing is to buy a special subscriber identification module (SIM) card for e-load or auto load business. Prices range from P250 to P1,460, depending on which cellular phone company you choose. Globe SIM card is automatically loaded with P1,500 worth of loads while Smart SIM card has P50 worth of loads.

2. You can now start to operate your e-load business. Smart retailers can also sell to Talk & Text and Addict mobile subscribers while Globe retailers can sell to Touch Mobile subscribers.

HOW TO START/ A18

THIS cat survived the fire that gutted a boardinghouse in Manila, but eight other occupants did not. EDWIN BACASMAS

Fire guts boardinghouse at University Belt; 8 dead

By Margaux C. Ortiz and DJ Yap

FELLOW BOARDERS BANGED ON THEIR doors but they wouldn't wake up. Some of them had apparently been drinking and were left to the mercy of the flames.

In the latest of a long list of tragedies to hit boardinghouses and dormitories in the country, eight young people—two of them women—were killed in a fire that gutted a two-story apartment building in Manila's Sampaloc district before dawn yesterday, investigators said.

"The other boarders knocked on the victims' door to wake them up, but they were apparently too groggy to hear anything," arson investigator FO1 Fermalino Guillermo told the INQUIRER. "They were burned beyond recognition."

At least four boarders were injured.

Some of those who survived leaped out of the windows of the building, which had no fire escape, another investigator, FO1 Lords Hernandez, said.

The fire raged for more than an hour.

Seven of the eight who were killed shared a room on the second floor.

The eighth, Vanessa Lachica, 25, was sleeping in another room. She failed to get out of the burning building because she had been electrocuted by a live wire, investigators said.

"The ones who were drunk had weak reflexes and others dragged their belongings with them, slowing down their evacuation," Fire Marshal Pablito Cordeta was quoted by The Associated Press as saying.

FIRE GUTS/ A18

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: S. Visayas and Mindanao will have cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. Rains may trigger flash floods and landslides over E. Mindanao. The rest of Visayas will have cloudy skies with rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be cloudy with isolated rainshowers.

COMPILED BY CYRIL L. BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/01/09/06 SOURCE PAGASA

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Bike used in Gingoyon slay found

THE POLICE YESTERDAY RECOVERED the motorcycle believed to have been used by the gunman in the Dec. 31 ambush-slaying of Pasay City Judge Henrick Gingoyon.

Investigators said the bike's recovery was an important step in uncovering the identity of the assassination's mastermind.

Officials believe the motorcycle's owner could tell the police who ordered the judge's killing.

But police had different accounts of the motorcycle's recovery.

Cavite police chief Sr. Supt. Benjardi Mantele said the motorcycle, a Kawasaki with plate No. WH-3152, was recovered around 4 a.m. near a mosque in Green Valley subdivision in Molino 3, Bacoor, Cavite.

Chief Supt. Jesus Verzosa, Calabarzon police director, said the motorcycle was found at the house of suspect Hadji Alimudin in Samata Village in Las Piñas City during a raid at around 4 a.m. Sunday.

The raiding team, however, failed to find Alimudin.

Arrested suspects Mark "Macmac" Datas and Sajid "Danny" Sulaiman told police during interrogation where the vehicle could be recovered. Datas admitted he was the driver of the getaway vehicle.

The police are now hunting the man who allegedly lent the motorcycle to Alimudin.

"It was Alimudin who provided money to one of the suspects, who, in turn, hired the gunman. It was also he who provided the motorcycle. That means if we get him, he may be able to tell us a lot," said Mantele.

The police gave very little details about Alimudin, other than he was a Christian who had converted to Islam and whose real name was Allan Cusa.

Gingoyon's remains were cremated yesterday in Cebu City.

His ashes will be brought to his home in Cavite this afternoon, according to the judge's elder brother, Jerome. *Luige A. del Puerto;Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

5-M signatures drive opposed by senators

'Plan is administration ploy'

By TJ Burgonio

EASTERN SAMAR GOV. BEN Evardone's plan to mount a "people's initiative" and gather five million signatures in support of Charter change has run into a brick wall in the Senate.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. yesterday vowed to oppose the plan, which he said was nothing but an administration-orchestrated ploy to prolong President Macapagal-Arroyo's stay in power.

"I don't care what's he's proposing, I will oppose it," Pimentel said in a phone interview. "That's obviously a ploy to prolong the administration's [hold on power]."

Free ride

Pimentel said Evardone's group, the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap), was being used by the Arroyo administration to press for support for changes to the 1987 Constitution, including the controversial recommendation by the Consultative Commission to scrap the 2007 elections on the way to a transition to a parliamentary form of government.

"They [local officials] will also get a free ride," Pimentel said , since canceling the midterm polls would extend the terms of all incumbent elected officials.

"That's bribery as far as the local government officials are concerned," he said.

12% of voters

Evardone, Ulap spokesperson, had said the group would kick off a campaign to obtain the signatures of 12 percent of the registered voters in support of proposed amendments to the Constitution.

Since the voting population is estimated at over 40 million, the number of signatures needed to mount a people's initiative would be a little less than five million, he said.

Palace happy

Malacañang, meanwhile, was elated over the Ulap plan.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said yesterday the plan should be welcomed as "a constructive democracy exercise in support of overall political reform and change."

Bunye called the Ulap initiative a "new front of popular participation that will enrich the debates and enlarge the arena of political change and transformation."

"Indeed, the whole Filipino nation must participate in Charter change and thereby help shape our collective future," he said in his weekly "View from the Palace" column.

Suspect plan

But Sen. Richard Gordon, chair of the Senate committee on constitutional amendments, said Evardone's plan "was suspect" just as the ConCom's independence was put into question because it was composed of governors and mayors.

The ConCom was created by President Macapagal-Arroyo to recommend changes to the 1987 Constitution. It was composed of present and former local government officials, jurists, educators, newspaper columnists and others.

"Since it [proposal] comes from a governor [Evardone], it will surely show that this administration is intent on changing the Constitution to benefit a powerful few," Gordon said in an interview.

Under study

Gordon's committee was still studying the House resolution seeking to convene Congress into a constituent assembly that would propose amendments to the Constitution and was still awaiting the ConCom's recommendation.

Before it starts hearings, the senator has drawn up a list of questions for the resource persons: "Are the people in favor of changing the Constitution? Which is the best mode? Which is less costly?"

As far as he was concerned, Gordon said instituting reforms in the country's flawed electoral system, such as modernizing the polls, strengthening the party system by banning party-switching and ensuring voters' access to candidates through the media, was more important than amending the Constitution.

With Christine O. Avendaño

Consumer & Oil Price Watch in 2006:

RENEWING OUR COMMITMENT TO FILIPINO CONSUMERS

MARAMING SALAMAT PO

At the start of the New Year, COPW thanks:

- The thousands of COPW followers nationwide for your messages of support we received through text, calls, and e-mails throughout the year.
- Congress for giving us the opportunity to present our position on various issues affecting the economy, such as tax measures to raise revenues.
- The Cabinet Secretaries and Regulatory Agencies for their continuous cooperation by providing valuable data and information which we use to support our positions that affect the general public.

COPW looks after the plight of unemployed, low-income earners, and the middle class Filipinos who are now having a very difficult time coping with the increasing cost of basic services, public transport & ocean fares, toll ways, electricity, oil, and water.

COPW renews its commitment to Filipino consumers, that in 2006, *we will continue to pursue TRANSPARENCY, DISCLOSURE, and ACCOUNTABILITY with greater vigor & perseverance in government expenditures and the bidding & awards of government infrastructure projects and public works.*

TIME TO UNITE & WORK TOGETHER

Today, our nation is divided as it has never been before. Yet, a change in the form of government, *from presidential to parliamentary, is not the solution* to most of our problems.

Instead, change must come from within us, in our leaders, and in our electoral system.

We have cherished values as a people

We have to revisit the cherished values we had in the past that made us a great nation: *freedom, integrity, honesty, hard work, self sacrifice, palabra de honor, & nation's interest first above our own.*

Our political leaders must inspire & unite our people

Our President and the leadership in both the House & Senate must keep our people and the country together, and must focus on the economy, creating jobs, encouraging local and foreign investments.

Thus, we call for AUTOMATED elections in May 2007.

WHY HOLD ELECTIONS IN MAY 2007?

Elections must be held in May 2007 as provided by the Constitution. Whether it's a unicameral parliamentary or bicameral as it is now (which our people will decide in a plebiscite), elections must be held for the 12 Senators, 238 Representatives, and around 17,000 local posts in cities, municipalities, and provinces whose term of office will expire in 2007.

Elections will unite, rather than divide, the nation. It will clarify the issues, rather than confuse our people.

WHY AUTOMATE THE ELECTION NOW?

1. We have to prepare now & modernize our electoral system thru computerization which will clean voters' lists, establish the biometric data of voters, and ensure speedy counting of votes.
2. Safeguards must be in place to ensure transparency and NO human intervention to manipulate the encoded data.
3. If the elections are clean and honest, our people will respect the system and the results.

CPW CONSUMER & OIL PRICE WATCH

RAUL T. CONCEPCION
Chairman

Text your comments to Hotline 0917-8103363
or call Direct Line 844-8785; Fax: 818-6203 • E-mail: rtc@cii.com.ph
To better serve the public, this ad appears in major newspapers and tabloids as comic strip.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Bid out P1.5-B purchase of arms, radios, AFP told

A GOVERNMENT AGENCY HAS REjected the proposal of the Armed Forces of the Philippines to buy automatic weapons and radios worth P1.5 billion without a public bidding.

Instead, the Government Procurement Police Board (GPPB) ordered the AFP to conduct a public bidding for Squad Automatic Weapons (SAW) estimated to cost P593 million and VHF/FM tactical radios estimated at P930.8 million, a Department of National Defense statement said.

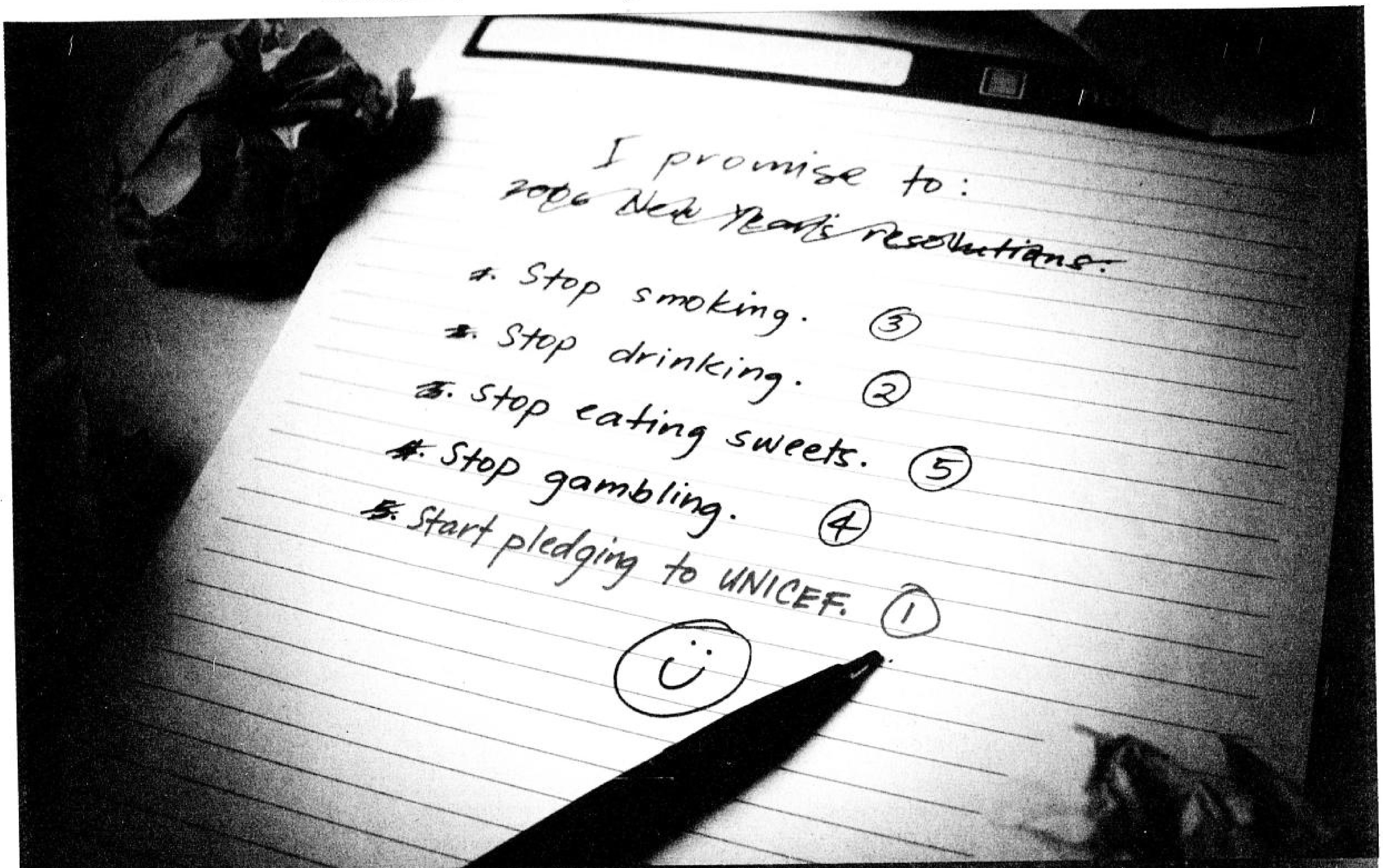
Since 2003, the AFP has been pushing for a direct or single source contract for the procurement of the equipment.

"In separate rulings by the GPPB, it was held that the contracts [would] not fall under the specific instances provided for by law where direct contracting or single source contracting is allowed," the DND said.

The military had earlier acquired a first order of SAWs and radios under its multibillion-peso modernization program. The equipment was distributed to units involved in the anti-insurgency campaign.

In March 2003, supplier FN Herstal delivered to the AFP 402 SAWs worth P117 million. One year later, Harris Corp. delivered 324 RF-5800h Falcon II high frequency single sideband man-pack transceivers worth P427 million.

The GPPB is composed of 12 department secretaries, including those of national defense and the budget. It was created by Republic Act No. 9184 or the Government Procurement Reform Act. It serves as the primary policymaking body on all matters relating to government procurement. *Alcuin Papa*



Some promises can have a lasting difference. If only we make them first.

This year, your promise can make a difference in the lives of children, through UNICEF and our Pangako para sa Pangarap Program. With your monthly pledge donation, you can help give children better chances for a brighter future – with better education, healthcare and protection from exploitation and abuse. All it takes is P10 a day and your commitment to see it through. Make their dreams your priority in the new year. Start by calling UNICEF today at 758-1000, or by visiting www.unicef.org/philippines.

☑ Yes, I want to help save lives tomorrow by giving today.
Name:
Address:
Contact Numbers:
Email Address:

Kindly cut and fax to:
(632) 901-0195 or (632) 729-4529
Or send to:
United Nations Children's Fund
31/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza
6819 Ayala Avenue, 1200 Makati City
Philippines

unicef
Pangako para sa Pangarap

IP05L-INQ-NY-010906

JOB Market
We wa
FOR IMMEDIATE HIRI
COME TO OUR
WE'RE ALSO LOOK

LaserLight
HAIR REMOVAL
25% OFF

LaserLight Hair Removal now offers 25% DISCOUNT on all body areas where you want to be totally sexy-smooth and hair-free – forever! Avail of this promo from January 9 to 14, 2006 and you'll love your stubble-free underarms, upper lip, legs and bikini lines! Call Facial Care Centre NOW!

facial care
CENTRE

Per DTI-NCR Permit # 4362, Series of 2005

CALL 892-SKIN (7546)

Where Beautiful Skin Happens
www.facialcarecentre.com.ph

MAKATI ORTIGAS TOMAS MORATO BINONDO ALABANG SHAW CONGRESSIONAL PAMPANGA (961-3404) CEBU (233-7631)

FVR, Cory, Erap unity: The politics of dead end

From page A1

ration is a difficult dilemma. This is one reason this repackaged elitist formula would be hard to sell.

Odd man out

All three figures represent the ancien regime and, worse, they are all associated with the Edsa people power paradigm, a political framework that has disappointed us as a mechanism for real social change, and that has become irrelevant.

Ramos and Aquino were winners of the Edsa I and Estrada was a loser in Edsa II, which Ramos and Aquino supported.

Thus, bringing them together in an alliance to depose another Edsa beneficiary (Ms Arroyo) welds us to the people power template of political change, a mode that has been a source of political instability and has undermined the strengthening of political institutions and democratic legal process.

In Edsa I, Ramos and Aquino represented the first triumvirate with Jaime Cardinal Sin as the third pivot. With Sin gone, the new initiative to revive a triumvirate is looking for a new leg. That new leg is Estrada, ironically a victim of two Edsas. He is the odd man out.

Overusing people power

When Edsa was a fresh vehicle for political change, Ramos, Aquino and Sin were powerful agents for mass mobilization to overthrow the Marcos regime. But the overuse of people power in different political circumstances has jaded its value as a vehicle for political change.

Although Estrada appears to have retained some of his appeal among the masses, his incorporation into the renovated triumvirate framed in the Edsa mystique does not make a transitional governing council of Edsa figures any more attractive than the option offered by constitutional change, i.e., the 2007 exit of Ms Arroyo through a shift to the parliamentary system.

Recycling Edsa formula

The recycling of the Edsa triumvirate formula is a reflection of the sterility of political initiations and the bankruptcy of the elite-dominated political system for leadership material.

It is fair to say that, while a significant portion of the population wants an early end to the Arroyo presidency, few would like to see a triumvirate of elders overseeing a transition in a post-Arroyo period to pave the way for a more permanent regime, whose composition we have no idea about.

The ambiguity of the destination of this transitional governing council is no worse than that mooted by retired Gen. Fortunato Abat in his wildest dreams of installing a transition "revolutionary council."

Where are the young?

In all these proposals, we must note that the young people of this country have not been involved and have not contributed new ideas for political change. Their ideas have not been sought and it is a sad commentary that they have not come forward with ideas for political renovation.

While it is true that more and more relatively young people have won political office either in local governments or in the legislature, their entry into politics and the bureaucracy is marred by the fact that many of the younger mayors, governors, congressmen and senators are members of political dynasties.

It is distressing to note, in particular, that in the two Edsa upheavals, the young people were not on the vanguard movements for change. It was unlike the ferments of the late 1960s when the young people led the revolts that stormed the centers of the political establishment.

Illusion of political renewal

Although there is nothing innovative in the output of the Jan. 2 meeting convened by Ramos and in the proposals for a Ramos-Aquino-Estrada coalition, we can readily discern that a consensus is building for new approaches to bring about the end of the Arroyo administration before 2010.

The impulses for this consensus are taking many shapes.

It would be dangerous for Ms Arroyo to ignore these signals. She is trying to defuse them through parliamentary mechanisms offered by her party's majority in the House of Representatives.

She has, as a new year initiative, invited former Presidents—Ramos, Estrada and Aquino—to participate in the Council of State meeting on Jan. 24 to consider issues of constitutional change and political reform.

Such a meeting glosses over the issue that the movement to cut short her term has regained impetus. The Council of State cooptation of lost allies and nonallies and the forthcoming Cabinet change cannot halt the momentum of the search of an early post-Arroyo transition. They have become ritualistic mechanisms that are false pretenses to political renewal.

Single mom keeps alive hope . . .

From page A1

agammaglobulinemia, a rare condition wherein the body has very low levels of immunoglobulins, or antibodies, which protect it from infection. According to their doctor, the condition is hereditary, affecting only males with the mother usually serving as the "carrier" of the defective gene.

Do you report on the family's background? The 41-year-old single mom is well-educated but unable to sustain a career because of her children's special needs. They live in a middle-class subdivision in Novaliches, Quezon City, but the house (a family inheritance) is practically bare, save for a few valuables waiting to be pawned.

Or do you zero in on the family's financial problem? Patricia, voice heavy with emotion during the INQUIRER interview, explains that in order for her two sons' immune system to reach normal levels, they would need a steady supply of "externally sourced" antibodies which cost some P160,000 a month.

But there's hope: Patricia's public appeal for assistance was featured in the GMA public service program "Emergency" last December. According to her, she has received initial donations totaling P50,000 through the Igan Foundation, a humanitarian outfit set up by the show's host, radio-TV journalist Arnold Clavio.

Her story evokes the premise of the movie "Saving Private Ryan," Spielberg's war-drama masterpiece: An American mother has lost three of her four sons fighting in World War II, prompting the US Army to send a special infantry team to find the last surviving son, get him out of the combat zone, and bring him home alive to his mother at all costs.

Any which way, there's hardly a comfortable route to take retracing Patricia's painful journey.

They come and go

It began on Jan. 7, 1987, when her eldest Gian Paolo was born. The boy lived till age 8, passing away on Nov. 20, 1995.

Gabrielle Patrick was born Sept. 3, 1996 and died on June 12, 1998.

Patrick Andrew's life was briefest. He lived only from Oct. 14, 2002 to Sept. 16, 2003.

Today, Patricia is desperately trying to keep two "miracles" alive—her sons Justine Miguel, 10, and Gian Luigi, 15.

It is for them, she says, that she puts on a brave front, trying her best to "act normal," like any other working mother raising typical, growing boys. She has managed to send both of them to a private school, supporting them with her income from various jobs—working as a travel agent, even selling dry goods and insurance policies.

"We have a happy atmosphere at home. Since I am in sales, I try to keep a positive disposition," she says. "But I scold my boys if I need to, just like any normal mom."

The normalcy abruptly ends when the two boys become exposed to infections. Then they would miss class for weeks, sometimes months, fighting off ailments such as a common cold.

At first, the boys went to school wearing face masks but "they felt awkward with their classmates so I took them off and faced the risk," Patricia narrates.

Trips to the mall and other crowded places are also discouraged.

"I can still feed them three square meals a day," Patricia says, "but it's the cost of the medication that has now become a burden."

Pending their intake of much-needed antibodies, Justine and Luigi rely on a regimen of antibiotics to fend off ordinary infections whose usual symptoms include mild fever and coughing.

IN THE KNOW

An extremely delicate world

AGAMMAGLOBULINEMIA IS A HEREDitary condition characterized by very low or total lack of immunoglobulins—antibodies that defend the body against illness and infection.

When a baby is born, the mother's antibodies protect the newborn against infection for six months.

Infants affected with agammaglobulinemia have recurring infections of the ears, sinuses, lungs and bones. Adults suffering from this condition may have frequent episodes of pneumonia, bronchitis, skin infections, diarrhea, sinusitis and conjunctivitis.

Treatment entails lifelong and monthly injections of gamma globulin to help boost the immune system. Antibiotics must be promptly given to treat bacterial infection.

Agammaglobulinemia affects only males, since the gene which causes the condition is carried by the X-chromosome. Since females have two sets of X-chromosomes, the normal one compensates for the faulty gene. The condition is simply passed on by the mothers.

Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

"I nearly lost Justine on three occasions when he was hospitalized—first for dengue, then for hip bone infection, and most recently for lung infection," she recalls.

But to put on a real shield from deadlier bacterial attacks, such as those causing polio, meningitis, pneumonia, etc., the teenage Luigi needs up to 35 grams of antibodies every month (estimated cost: P100,000) while the younger Justine needs 25 grams monthly (P60,000), their mother says.

Wanted: antibodies

Dr. Rommel Lobo, an immunologist attending to the Dongallo brothers, says the two boys managed to survive this far, perhaps because "specific infections that require antibodies (to fight them off) have not hit them yet."

Taking antibiotics, he explains, would allow them to recover from colds or coughs in, say, three weeks—ailments that normal people would be able to fend off in a few days.

Discovered in the 1950s, agammaglobulinemia *(see "In The Know" on this page)* was previously known as Bruton's Disease. It is a congenital problem where the cells responsible for producing antibodies lack the protein BTK that they need to mature, explained Lobo.

This type of immune system deficiency is like a "factory defect," unlike in the case of AIDS wherein the defect is "acquired" after being infected with the HIV virus, Lobo says.

An infant born of a "carrier" mother is still armed with antibodies inherited from her, but this initial protection eventually gets "used up" by the time the baby reaches six months of age, he adds.

According to Patricia, her three sons who died were born healthy and normal, but started "deteriorating" after catching a cold that eventually led to serious complications.

Appeal for help

The disease has actually haunted the Dongallos a generation before. The youngest in a brood of eight, Patricia says two of her elder brothers also died of the same condition. Fortunately, her other siblings and their respective children have been free of the disease.

"I thought losing a child is a tragedy that would come once, maybe twice in a mother's life," Patricia says.

"I have risked everything and now I'm doing something I never thought I'd do," she says, referring to her public appeal for help. "Sometimes, I wake up in the morning afraid that my sons have passed during the night.".

Asked what gives her hope, Patricia recalls this conversation with a doctor: "I remember one of them saying, 'In your sons' case, there should have been no survivors. I cannot explain this medically, so it must be a miracle.'"

TULOY-TULOY ANG PANALO sa XTREME
MAGIC SING
XTREME
HANDHELD VIDEOKE MICROPHONE
THE ORIGINAL!
MAGIC SING
INTERNATIONAL EDITION
Congratulations to our monthly winners!
OVER P1,000,000.00 WORTH OF CA & PRIZES!
OVER P1,000,000.00 WORTH OF CA PRIZES!
XTREME Days of Christmas

Ms. HERWIL SARINO
October P100,000 WINNER

Ms. SUSAN MARIE CO
November P100,000 WINNER

Buy XTREME Magic Sing Products and get a chance to WIN P500,000 in the JANUARY DRAW!

For promo mechanics, text XTREME HELP to 2982 for Sun Cellular, 283 for Smart and Talk 'N Text, & 2800 for Globe and Touch Mobile

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2370 Series 2005

For details, see Posters & Flyers at your nearest XTREME Magic Sing International Edition dealer now:

SM Appliance Center · SUPER SM · SM Record Bar · Fiestamall · Ambassador Appliances, Inc. · Anson Emporium · VideoCity · Rustan's Department Store · Shoewise · Radio City · Precision · Sound Dimension Park Square · Crossings · Hotel Rembrandt · kabayancentral.com · Metro · 5th Ave · Eco · Cost U Less · makro · Gillamac's · Gaisano Main · Country Mall · Gaisano South Group · Gaisano · Music Zone · Magic Appliance Center · Addessa · Optimum Trader Currency Specialist · BHF Corporation · EMCOR · Mike's Dept Store · MB Marketing · Ocampo's · Conpinco · Imperial Appliance Plaza

METRO MANILA DEALERS

QUIAPO / BINONDO AJD Electronics 736-3880 • Armstrong Electronics 733-2849 • Bog's Electronics 733-2386 • Delta Appliances 533-4653 • Hi-Mark Sales 736-1882 • Gemetric 314-8871 • J&R 242-1576 • JMD Electronics 736-3880 • Joy's Electronics 734-9904 • Just 734-1819 • Jems Appliances 703-1024 • Millennium Electronics 314-8508 • OK Electronic 733-9691 • Richland 733-1706 • Santech Electronics 734-1821 • W & M Marketing 735-4274 • Worldwide Audio & Video 241-3446 • ***MALATE / MAKATI / PARAÑAQUE / PASIG / MUNTINLUPA*** A. Salonga 400-4492 • Image Video 525-1015 • Sohan Audio & Video Int'l 527-1171 • Phasetron Audio Systems 819-7372 • M@RS Trading 776-8528 • U R Household Shop 687-0400 • Alabang Marketing 533-4653

PROVINCIAL DEALERS

BAGUIO • Rajat Electronics (074) 444-9340 • ***BANGUED*** Mike's Superstore • ***BATAAN*** Ocampo's Mega Store Balanga (047) 237-2643, Dinalupihan • ***BICOL*** Multibrand (054) 473-7262 • ***BOHOL*** Island City Mall (038) 411-3860 • ***CAVITE*** V. Divina Enterprises (046) 890-0399 • ***CEBU*** A. Salonga (032) 232-5378, M. Miranda (032) 262-3619 • ***DAVAO*** Funtronics (082) 227-0545 • ***ILOCOS NORTE*** Ricafort Trading (077) 770-3410 • ***LA UNION*** BHF Corp • National Bazaar • Video City • ***LAOAG*** Family Trade House • New India Dept. Store (077) 772 0679, (077) 772-0478 • Allied Marketing (077) 770-3257 • ***LAGUNA*** MSC Data Exchange (049) 562-7172 • ***LEYTE*** RL Appliance (053) 321-2635 / 7442 Sogod Branch 382-3029, Baybay Branch 563-8113, Ormoc City Branch 561-4326, Naval Biliran Branch 500-9710, Maasin City Branch 381-3861 • ***LUCENA*** Recio (042) 373-7777 • ***OLONGAPO*** Ocampo's Olongapo, Inc. (047) 222-4444, (047) 223-3000, (047) 222-2548 • ***PANGASINAN*** Ricafort Trading (075) 522-7112 • ***PAMPANGA*** Downtown (045) 900-0225, Ocampo's Emporium (045) 963-0084, Ocampo's Jewelry (045) 888-2649 • ***S. COTABATO*** D' Sunata Record Bar General Santos (083) 553-5073, Koronadal (083) 228-3844 • ***TUGUEGARAO*** New Tuguegarao Bombay Bazaar (078) 844-2560, (078) 846-2259 • ***VIGAN*** Family Trade House • Video City • ***ZAMBALES*** Ocampo's Subic (047) 232-2930

EXCLUSIVELY DISTRIBUTED BY
THE ASTRA GROUP, INC. G/F Richbelt Tower, 17 Annapolis St., Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila
Tel: 72-MAGIC (62442), 726-9999, 726-2443, 726-2449 www.astramagicsing.com

MANUFACTURED IN KOREA BY
ET ENTER TECH
ENTER TECH CO. LTD.

EARN YOUR STRIPES!

with the World's Leader in Bar Code Printer

Zebra's claim to fame is backed by 35 years of experience and reputation in reliability and innovation.
If specialty label printing is your game, we know just the right stripe for you!

TLP 2844-Z
SRP: Php24,995
Space Saver
Resolution: 203dpi
Print Width: 4.09" max.
Print Speed: 102mm/sec

TLP 3842
SRP: Php31,995
Space Saver
Resolution: 300dpi
Print Width: 4.09"
Print Speed: 102mm/sec

S600
SRP: Php65,995
Mid-Range
Resolution: 203dpi
Print Width: 4.09"
Print Speed: 152mm/sec

Z4MPlus
SRP: Php98,995
Commercial
Resolution: 300dpi
Print Width: 4.09"
Print Speed: 152mm/sec

110 XiIIIPlus
SRP: Php159,995
High Performance
Resolution: 300dpi
Print Width: 4.09"
Print Speed: 203mm/sec

Zebra

Associate Partner:
ATI better solutions
AMERICAN TECHNOLOGIES, INC.

CALL FOR FREE DEMO:
Tel. 723-0601 to 10 • Fax: 723-7591
Email: inquire@ati.com.ph
URL: www.ati.com.ph

Non-politician should head DENR, say environmentalists

By Blanche S. Rivera

ENVIRONMENTALISTS YESTERDAY URGED Malacañang to appoint a non-politician to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to replace Secretary Michael T. Defensor who is reportedly being transferred to Malacañang.

The World Wildlife Fund said the DENR needed someone who was more transparent, credible and sober-minded than Defensor, who had been criticized for the logging and mining concessions he granted during his term.

"Mike Defensor from the start made it very clear he was a politician and his actions were true to his own politics. (He did) what will result in making the administration look good... He was not transparent enough," WWF president Lorenzo Tan said in a phone interview.

Tan said Defensor's replacement should be able to recognize the important problems and issues, which somebody with a political agenda could not do.

Defensor has been reported to be among the Cabinet members that will figure in a revamp early this year. He is being eyed as President Macapagal-Arroyo's next chief of staff.

"I would rather that the new secretary is not a politician because a politician has too many favors to give out, especially if you're with the administration," Haribon president Anabelle Plantilla said.

Haribon, which has been pushing for a total commercial log ban, wants someone with a bias toward conservation and not utilization, considering the country's depleted resources.

Environmentalists agreed that mining would be the biggest challenge for the next DENR chief considering the agency's conflicting mandate to protect resources while tapping those of mining.

"Resource extraction is like unfinished brain surgery. It has been opened up but hasn't been clearly settled," Tan said.

QUICKTIE™ Heavy Duty TRASH BAG
basic™
EASYTIE™ Extra Heavy Duty TRASH BAG
PHIL. PAT. UM NO. 7402 / 7433
Rolled & Perforated for Easy Dispensing
Built-In Tie for Quick & Sanitary Disposal
available in different sizes and colors
THE TRASH BAG WITH A BUILT-IN TIE
Black Color
Assorted Colors
NOW THICKER & STRONGER THAN EVER!
available at all leading supermarkets
Also Available: Food Wrappers 100% Food Grade
ROLLO ALL PURPOSE BAG • Ideal for meat, fish, vegetables, desserts, etc.
ROLLO SANDWICH BAG

NPA attacks 'curtain raisers,' says Ka Roger

LUCENA CITY—THE RECENT AMBUSCADES and armory raids conducted by communist New People's Army rebels against government forces were a prelude to more heightened offensives across the country, spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal said yesterday.

"Those attacks were mere curtain raisers. More solid blows will be dealt upon the fascist forces to heighten the fall of the despotic US-Arroyo regime," said Rosal, the spokesperson of the Communist Party of the Philippines, in a phone interview.

Rosal said the NPA had prioritized the seizure and accumulation of firearms and ammunition for its growing ranks.

"We must seize arms from the enemy to form more armed units to strengthen the growing ranks of Red fighters," he said.

Last Friday, a band of communist rebels stormed the police station in Albuera, Leyte, seizing 30 assorted firearms from the policemen on duty who offered no resistance.

Earlier that day, some 50 suspected rebels killed five policemen and three civilians in an ambush in Claveria, Masbate.

On Jan. 2, three government security personnel, including a town police chief, were killed and two others wounded in an ambush perpetrated by alleged NPA rebels in Matnog, Sorsogon.

Rosal boasted that the more than 200 attacks carried out by the NPA across the country in the last quarter would pale in comparison to the much bigger attacks to be staged this year.

"Several guerrilla fronts have now mastered the strategy of consolidating forces to successfully carry out the desired goal, especially in tactical offensives against the enemies. It is now a plus factor to their growing strength and combat capabilities," Rosal had said in an earlier interview.

In a text message, Rosal said the NPA's Jose Rapsing Command in Masbate had admitted responsibility for the command-detonated land mine ambush in Claveria.

Rosal claimed the three slain civilians were military assets in the area.

He said the rebels seized two M-14 and four M-16 rifles and one .30-cal. machine gun in the ambush.

The NPA staged the ambush, he said, to punish the government forces for their rampant human rights violations in the area.

In its founding anniversary message last month, the CPP central committee ordered the NPA, its armed faction, to intensify its attacks against government troops in a bid to help the broad anti-Arroyo forces topple the administration in the next six months.

Peace negotiations with the communist rebels, brokered by Norway, have been stalled since August 2004 when the government declined to help persuade the United States and the European Union to drop the rebel movement from its terror blacklist. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

SLIMMERS WORLD
WOMEN: Great Body, Flawless Face, Glowing Skin, Facial & Body Scrub — MEN: Build your best body! Treat yourself to a Massage and Facial.
GREAT BODY WINNER JONABEL GAVIETA reduced Body Fat by 34.5 lbs.
FREE DANCE AEROBICS on Full Programmes.
GREAT SAVINGS!!!
PERSONAL TRAINING
POWER STRETCHING
NUTRITIONAL ADVICE
GREAT BODY WINNER ARTURO GUERRERO reduced Body Fat by 35 lbs.
ONLY P45 PER DAY on Full Enrollment.
FIRST 25 SLOTS TODAY.
MEDICAL SUPERVISION AT ALL CENTERS.
Per DTI-NCR Permit #2787, Series of 2005.
FITNESS & SKIN HOTLINE 8873533 MOBILE 091-SLIMMERS (75466377)
PERMANENT LASER HAIR REMOVAL At the best price in the Philippines
BODY SCRUB
ADVANCED CELLULOSS TREATMENT
BODY FORMER
SLIMMERS WORLD Face, Skin & Cosmetic Centers
MESOTHERAPY
PASSIVE SLIMMING
Diamond Ultrapeel & Hot Masque
Lose pounds of fat with the LATEST PASSIVE SLIMMING & FIRMING TECHNOLOGY from Europe.
OTHER TREATMENTS: ▪SKIN WHITENING ▪AQUAMID ▪BOTOX ▪RESTYLANE ▪PERLANE ▪FACIAL ▪LASER ACNE TREATMENT ▪WART REMOVAL ▪NUTRACELL-FACE
GREAT SAVINGS!!! 60% on Full SKIN, FACE & BODY PROGRAMMES. FIRST 25 SLOTS TODAY.
CALL US
www.slimmersworld.com.ph
inquire@slimmersworld.com.ph
ALABANG Gemma/Wendy 809-0396
BINONDO Thelma/Jannah 242-1312
CALOOCAN Sherry/Bheng/Olive 365-7653
CEBU Luisa/Chryso 231-3254
GREENHILLS Eleanor 726-6505
LEGASPI VILL. Lani/Jonah 893-8935
MALATE Daisy 536-0619
MEGAMALL Gina/Maureen 631-3869
PASAY RD Cher/Maan 887-1335
Pasay Rd cellphone 09178515920
PASIG Lorie/Dino 681-5333
SM NORTH Mitch 929-5429
SUBIC Beth/Precy 252-6514
TRAFALGAR Anna 814-0138
SKIN CENTER HOTLINES: ALABANG 7750587/09183912510 BINONDO 2420728/09178224399 CALOOCAN 3657653 GREENHILLS 7261526/09194986196 MALATE 5259891/09213173415 MEGAMALL 6377543/09162479753 PASAY RD. 8873530/09156893088 PASIG 6473814/09275341314

Catch the new L.A. Express with THAI
L.A. EXPRESS
Fly the quickest way to the City of Angels.
It's the first non-stop ever.
From 2nd December, THAI offers the speediest Royal Orchid Service ever. The L.A. Express with the latest Airbus A340, equipped with all the amenities including self-select entertainment and the courteous service unique to THAI. Find your seat, recline and let the crew that is versed in making passengers feel comfortable, pamper you with delicious meals and superb drinks. This express experience is one you'll look forward to repeating.
THAI. Smooth as silk.
For more information, please call your travel agent or THAI Reservations:
Makati 8124744 Manila 5280122 to 25 Cebu (032) 2322405
THAI
Los Angeles
Bangkok

2 senators press RP custody of 4 GIs

From page A1

15,000 yen ($129) on Yokosuka Street near the US naval base, 45 km southwest of Tokyo.

US stalling

In contrast, the US military has stalled on the Philippine government's repeated demands to hand over the four Marines accused of raping a 22-year-old woman inside a van at the Subic Bay Freeport in Zambales in November.

The four were SSgt. Chad Carpentier and Lance Corporals Dominic Duplantis, Daniel Smith and Keith Silkwood. Charged with them was Timoteo Soriano Jr., the Filipino driver of the van.

Gordon stressed that the US government should turn over custody of the four accused to the Philippine government "out of respect" for its longtime ally.

Unless the Americans respected the Filipinos' desire for the government to assert sovereignty and gain custody of the accused, the Visiting Forces Agreement "would be put to the test," he said.

"The reliability of the Philippines as an ally does not depend on these four servicemen who did a crime off-duty. We're a reliable ally because of the VFA, and we've agreed to train each other because of the VFA," he added.

Arrest warrants

But Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez yesterday said the Philippines should wait first for the arrest warrants to be issued against the US servicemen before insisting on gaining custody of them.

If the United States ignores the warrant, then that is when the country should assert its desire to be in charge of the suspects, Gonzalez said when asked about the Japan case.

"We will first wait for the results of the hearing in court," Gonzalez said in a phone interview. "All these things will be academic if the court issues a warrant. Let us not try to anticipate what will happen. If the United States refuses to surrender them, then that is the time for us to negotiate."

Olongapo Judge Renato Dilag, who is handling the rape case, has not yet issued arrest warrants for the suspects. He still has to resolve the six motions filed by the accused. The motions seek judicial determination of probable cause or a stay of arrest.

Gonzalez also said Japan's accord with the United States and Manila's agreement with the US might be different from each other. He pointed out that under the VFA, the United States could have custody of its servicemen accused of a crime.

The VFA also provides that the Philippines could request custody of the suspects under special circumstances. The Philippines formally sought custody of the accused servicemen in November, but the United States never even responded to the letter.

US cooperation in Japan

In Japan, the US military has pledged to work closely with the Japanese police on the case. High-level American officials, including Ambassador Thomas Schieffer, have expressed regret over the attack.

The case comes at an important juncture for the US military in Japan. Washington and Tokyo are working to overcome local opposition to plans to build an American military airstrip on the southern island of Okinawa, and to base a US nuclear-powered warship at Yokosuka for the first time.

In 1995, the rape of a 12-year-old girl by three US servicemen on Okinawa set off large and emotional anti-US military protests, and led to the relocation of an air base to a less densely populated part of the island.

The rape case also resulted in an agreement that the US military would hand over American suspects in serious crimes to Japanese authorities for pre-indictment investigation.

About 50,000 US troops are stationed in Japan under a joint security pact, but Tokyo and Washington agreed last October to move 7,000 Marines from Okinawa to the US Pacific island territory of Guam, and to shift some other troops within Japan.

A Philippine official, who requested anonymity because he is involved in the ongoing negotiations, said Japan was in a better position than the Philippines to assert its sovereignty in a criminal case.

He pointed out that Japan's advantage included better terms under its Status of Force Agreement (Sofa) with the United States.

With an AP report

Roxas demeaning OFW . . .

From page A1

"To dismiss the strong peso as no big deal is to demean the sacrifices and heroism of our overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) who are tirelessly working beyond our shores to provide economic security to their loved ones," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said yesterday.

Providing economic security for their kin, Bunye said, was a "big deal" for Filipinos who dream of a better life.

"National survival borne out of collective effort and synergy in the hardest times is a big deal," he said.

Roxas also criticized Malacañang's unrelenting optimism over other positive indicators, such as the surging stocks and bonds.

"The headline statistics being trumpeted by the government are good and yet everybody is feeling lousy and their sales reflect this lousiness," he said Saturday.

Roxas said higher stocks and lower bond spreads were meaningless to most Filipinos if these did not lead to more capital raised and more affordable loans for businesses and consumers.

Roxas also said that giving the poor subsidized noodles and rice would satisfy their hunger for a day but would not provide them with steady incomes and affordable food and services.

Bunye said the administration shared the concerns of Roxas and in fact was already moving toward providing the people with the benefits of the tough economic reforms put in place by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Bunye, also the presidential spokesperson, said the Arroyo administration had already announced a P35-billion program aimed at pump-priming the economy in the first three months of the year. Part of the funds will subsidize noodles and rice for the poor.

"We assure him that the payback on economic reforms is already here in terms of the multibillion-peso pump-priming program, as well as the larger strategic programs to fight hunger and poverty," he said in his weekly newspaper column.

Bunye said the government was putting in place immediate and long-term relief measures "to jump-start jobs, lower the cost of food, increase access to cheap, quality medicine and health insurance, broaden education and housing opportunities, and expand infrastructure to push productivity."

Several congressmen came to the defense of Malacañang.

Poised for takeoff

Disagreeing with Roxas' statement, Tarlac Rep. Jesli Lapus, chair of the House ways and means committee, said the economy was poised for a "takeoff" despite the "destructive politics" afflicting the country.

"But, of course, is not that what governance and unity are all about?" he said in a phone interview.

"It's like saying that the fuel in the rocket is useless unless there's a launch. Who's going to launch it? It's not just the executive. It's all of us."

Lapus said that while the real economic effects might not yet be felt by the people due to global factors beyond the control of the government, the strong currency and other positive economic indicators "have no doubt strengthened the country's fiscal position, and trade and international credit standing."

Lower debt service

Lapus said the peso's strength against the dollar meant lower landed costs of all imported goods, including oil.

"The effect of a stronger peso is immediately felt," he said.

Take, for example, the case of a bond flotation, he said. "It's seven times oversubscribed. For example, we tried to raise $2 billion but instead got a $14 billion order. The effect? Lower interest expense."

Lapus explained that a cheaper dollar would also translate to lower debt service, thus a bigger budget for basic services. "The allocation for basic services in the national budget is primarily for the poor."

Addressing poverty

Albay Rep. Joey Salceda said a strong peso was critical to the country's survival "because it makes fiscal reforms more bearable."

He said fiscal reforms were critical in enabling the government to address poverty.

Salceda, chair of the House committee on economic affairs, said the peso appreciation against the dollar and the easing of global oil prices had allowed a P2.60-a-liter decrease in pump prices to pre-VAT (value-added tax) levels.

"Isn't it not a benefit?" he said.

"The peso is just another price and no cure-all. As Roxas implies, you need a mix of policies to do it. And PGMA (Ms Arroyo) can't do it alone. Everyone must do their part rather than just heckle from the sidelines, (which is) quite easy to do," Salceda said.

Other House leaders said the strong peso and surging stocks were "indicators of a vibrant economy, which the government is not crowing about but merely cites in calling on the political leaders and the people to join the administration to move the nation forward by setting aside bitter partisan bickering."

MICROTEK
MHP1 42" PLASMA TV

Dream Theatre
Deluge Your Senses.

10,000:1 Contrast Ratio · 1500 Brightness · 60,000 Hours
FREE DVD Player for every purchase of MHP1

- Superb 10,000:1 contrast ratio
- Stunning 1.07 billion color reproduction
- Flood any room with 1500 nit brightness
- 16:9 widescreen display
- Supports all worldwide digital and analog sources
- Slim, sleek, elegant design
- Power Stereo Speaker System
- 60,000 Hours Life

Php 120,000.
Promo period is from December 12, 2005 to January 13, 2006.

Distributed by:
better solutions
AMERICAN TECHNOLOGIES, INC.
url: www.ati.com.ph • e-mail. inquire@ati.com.ph
Tel: 723-0601 • Fax: 723-7951
Per DTI NCR Permit # 4274 Series of 2005.

Call ATI hotline @7230601 or email inquire@ati.com.ph for more info.

Walang KaSING PINOY Collection
WOW! MAGIC SING MAGIC MICROPHONE

ED9000
SILVER FIESTA 2006 EDITION
- 100% WOWPHILIPPINES Scenic Backgrounds
- Contains 2,064 Songs
- 5 meter fixed cable
- Free 7 OPM Songs
- Free Tarsy Bag*

SILVER FIESTA Wireless Duet Mic (Optional)

ED8000
MABUHAY 2006 EDITION
- 100% WOWPHILIPPINES Scenic Backgrounds
- Contains 2,064 Songs
- USB Ready
- External Video Source
- Record & Play
- Wireless Stereo Output at 4 FM Frequencies
- Free 7 OPM Songs
- Free Tarsy Bag*

MABUHAY Wireless Duet Mic (Optional)

ED6000
BLACK FIESTA 2006 EDITION
- 100% WOWPHILIPPINES Scenic Backgrounds
- Contains 2,064 Songs
- Record & Play
- Wireless Stereo Output at 4 FM Frequencies
- 5 meter fixed cable
- Free Tarsy Bag*

BLACK FIESTA Wireless Duet Mic (Optional)

STANDARD FEATURES/FUNCTIONS:
• Connects Directly to TV • Hi-Fi Dynamic Sound Quality • Best Picture Quality • Loads up to 4 Song chips at a time • 1 Year Worldwide Warranty • PAL/NTSC Compatible • Autovolt (110-220V) • Real Time Scoring Function • Amateur, Pro or Star Singer Scoring Level • Voice Change Style (Male or Female) • Song Reservation • Adjustable Pitch, Tempo, Echo, Mic & Music Volume • Displays the first line of the song on browse • Song Section Repeat • Continuous Play • Random Song Selection • Language Selection • Melody instrument change • Melody on/off • Team Game Function • Adjustable Lyric Display

OTHER OPTIONAL ACCESSORIES
OPM with English Song Chip: TAGALOG 3 (953 Songs) · TAGALOG 4 (874 Songs) · TAGALOG 5 (500 Songs) · TAGALOG 6 (500 Songs)
Religious Song Chip: CHRISTIAN (500 Songs) · CHURCH HYMN (558 Songs) · WORSHIP (509 Catholic Songs)
Recording Chip 50 mins. recording time (Mabuhay & Black Fiesta only)
Car Adaptor
Mini Video Camera (Mabuhay only)
Also Available: Foreign Song Chips

* Promo period Nov 12, 2005 to Jan 31, 2006 Per DTI-NCR Permit No 2938 series of 2005

AUTHORIZED DEALERS:
odyssey MUSIC & VIDEO · Automatic CENTRE · AstroVision · avant ABENSON · ABENSON · WESTERN · TOWER RECORDS · Music Video · Home & Office Center · ASTROPLUS · ABENSON · ABENSON · Robinsons Appliances · Avid Brands! · AVStyle · JB MUSIC The Complete Music Shop · MI

Metro Manila Dealers: RAON, BINONDO - Abraham Merchandising • Ampere • Ample • Apo Electronics • Armstrong Electronics • Assurance • Fair N Square • First Asian Sales • Good-Moral Merchandising • Hirose • J&R • Just Appliance • Knight Audio Room • MAK Audio Video • Milenium Electronics • Metrotech • MJS • Ohms Trader • Pacific Electronics • Prosound Electronics • Prosperous Merchandising • Rodriguez Electronics • Refuge Merchandising • Sansonic Marketing • Santech • Solid Electronics • Son And Sarah Merchandize • Soundquest Electronics • W&M Marketing • Worldwide • Zoe Electronics • CALOOCAN - Electroworld • Emilio S. Lim Appliances • View Plus • Welcome Home • Fair N' Square • QUEZON CITY - IAJ Corporation • CUBAO - Bethel Marketing • JB Music • MJS • Nintendo • MANDALUYONG - Audiophile • I-Gen Portal • Listening Room • Listening Style • RMV Audio Studio • Sights & Sounds • Virtuoso • VMZ Business Center • MAKATI - Earl Toy World • Electronic Boutique • Filgifts.com • Puregold Inc. • Spectra • Victronics Computers Inc. • GREENHILLS - Golden Sound • Silver Gate Computer • Maxx Energie Ventures • OTHER METRO MANILA - Audio Maxx • Amazon • Belcap • Estrellita Appliance • Hardware Exchange • Impress Commercial • Micro J • Nintendo Commercial • Save on Surplus • Work Station • PCBS • E-Pacific Global • Kabayantrading.com • Pesocard.com • Provincial Dealers: Luzon (North) - Addessa • Asiatic Radio Supply • BHF Appliance • CSI • Consumers Appliance Traders • Dagupan Audio Electronics • Ever Appliance • Everest Furniture & Appliance • Grace Electronics • Guanzon Merhandising • International Freeport • Jetronix • Joy's Radio Center & Record Bar • Luzon Appliance Centrum • Manhattan Marketing • Mike's Dept.Store • Solar Sales Center • Tiongsan Harrison • TSB Bazaar • Ocampo's Angeles • Ocampos Mega Store • Power Station Electronics • Psalm Music Center • Savers Mart • S&J Marketing • Soundtrack Electronics • (South) - Aben Marketing • Alson Trading • Allied Appliance • Audio Mix • Jayson Marketing • Jomat Marketing • Multi Brand Distributor • People's Marketing • Robertson Mall • Royal Star Appliance • Thesson's Marketing • Willy & Sons • Visayas & Mindanao - Appliance Centrum Bacolod / Dumaguete • Asian Home • Arcel Marketing • BCS Music Store • Better Components • Better Living Appliance Center • Bohol Quality • Cebu Appliance • Cebu Circuit City • Central Quality Appliance Plaza • Central RJ Homes • Davao Better Homes • Echo • Eco-Tech • Electelcom • Fiesta Appliance Center • First Family Appliance Circle • Golden Bell • Gloria Bazar • Gleen Marketing • Graphic All-In • GV Appliance • Holiday Appliance Plaza • KCC Mall • Lopue's Department Store • Maan Video & Sounds • Metro Plaza • Mindanao Solidmark • Music Vision • Naces Appliance • OK Dept. Store • POS Marketing • Quality Appliance • R.A. Uy Appliance • Rainbow Appliance Plaza • Reverb • RJHomes • Romstrel General Merchandise • Smart Zone • Star Mark Appliance Center • Simosa Marketing • Sirlitz Consumer Electronics • Soundroom • Special Appliance Plaza • Time Express Depot • Victoria Dept. Store

Exclusively Distributed by: in-a-jiffy enterprises www.magicmic.com & G2K Corporation www.wowmagicsing.com
Showroom: Left Wing G/F Richbelt Terraces, 19 Annapolis St., Greenhills, San Juan • Tel. Nos.: (632) 725-39-94 • (632) 285-26-63 • (632) 722-55-27 • (632) 287-49-86

SEC official resigns ahead of end of term

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (SEC) Commissioner Joselia Poblador has resigned after a five-year stint with the corporate watchdog.

Poblador, 60, whose term ends in 2007, told the INQUIRER that she had decided to take a short rest, "to do some painting and golf."

Sources confirmed yesterday that President Macapagal-Arroyo had accepted Poblador's resignation.

But the SEC had yet to receive a formal notice from the Office of the President approving the resignation. Poblador filed her resignation on Dec. 1.

Poblador was one of the five members of the commission en banc, under the leadership of chair Fe Barin.

Poblador, who was appointed in 2000 by former President Joseph Estrada, was the longest-serving SEC commissioner among her fellow commissioners: Juanita Cueto, Jesus Martinez and Raul Palabrica.

"My term ends in 2007. I just turned 60 and I wish to move on to other things," she said in a text message to the INQUIRER.

She also belied any controversy surrounding her decision to resign. Poblador had taken an opposing view with that of the commission on certain issues affecting the pre-need industry.

At the SEC, Poblador actively held close watch over suspected boiler room operations. These refer to the use of high pressure sales tactics to sell bogus or dubious securities to clients.

Poblador had earlier retired from Caltex (Phils.) Inc. where she spent over 21 years.

She graduated from the University of the Philippines, with Bachelor of Arts (Economics) and Bachelor of Laws degrees.

Upon admission to the Philippine bar, she was transferred to the legal and policy research office of the presidential economic staff.

With a scholarship from the University of Texas at Austin School of Law, she earned her Master of Comparative Jurisprudence (Taxation) degree.

Reinstate raps vs Marcos kids, lawyers urge

THE GOVERNMENT LAST WEEK ASKED THE Sandiganbayan to reverse its ruling dismissing ill-gotten wealth charges against the children of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos—Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos, Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. and Irene Marcos-Araneta and her husband Gregorio Araneta III.

In a 55-page motion for reconsideration submitted on Friday, lawyers from the Solicitor General's office and the Presidential Commission on Good Government said the anti-graft court's Fourth Division erred when it scrapped on Dec. 6 evidence presented against the Marcos children and Araneta.

They said that all documentary exhibits presented in court had been gathered by the PCGG in the course of its investigation into the hidden assets of the Marcos family and their cronies.

Because of this, they said, the documents were deemed to have acquired public records status which exempted them from the rule on evidence that made authentication mandatory.

The lawyers also said the court's ruling denied the government's right to due process since they (the Marcos children) were the heirs of their parents' estates.

In its Dec. 6 ruling, the Sandiganbayan upheld the government's case against former first lady Imelda R. Marcos but said the government had failed to present evidence to show that her children and Araneta had played a part in amassing ill-gotten wealth.

The court junked the affidavits of Marcos associates submitted as evidence by the PCGG against the Marcos children and Araneta on the grounds they were photocopies and the originals were not presented for perusal.

In addition, the affiants were never called to the stand to confirm the contents of their depositions; hence the court ruled in favor of the defendants, it said. *Nelson F. Flores*

ONE DAY
NA LANG, DUE DATE
NA NG CREDIT CARD
BILLS MO.
MAY CASH KA NA
BA PARA DITO?

IN TIMES
WHEN YOU
NEED MONEY
FAST, APPLY
FOR A

Chinatrust
Oneday
personal loan

BASTA
KUMPLETO
KA SA
REQUIREMENTS,

ONE DAY
LANG, KUHA MO
AGAD ANG
CASH NA
NI-LOAN MO.

To apply for a Chinatrust One Day loan, call 811-8999 or visit our
Consumer Finance Center, 11/F Lepanto Bldg., 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.

Use your Chinatrust Loan to pay off your credit card bills and get amazing free rewards like an MP3 player, TV and laptop, depending on your approved loan amount!
See flyers and brochures for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit # 4412, Series of 2005

We are Family
Chinatrust

MILD SEVEN
SMOOTH CRUISES
THESE GREAT DESTINATIONS AWAIT YOU
PENANG
PHUKET

Win exciting cruises and other great prizes when you purchase Mild Seven Original and/or Mild Seven Lights today!

To join, consumer should text the ff. information to:

2968 [For Addict Mobile, Globe, Smart, Sun Cellular, Talk N' Text, or Touch Mobile subscribers]

M7SMOOTH[space]JOIN[space]BIR Stamp no./full name/bday(mmddyy)/gender/full address

For example:

M7SMOOTH JOIN 1234567890/Juan Cruz/121076/M/1234 Dela Rosa St. Enterprise Building Makati City

Succeeding texts should only indicate the promo title and BIR strip stamp serial number:

M7SMOOTH [space]JOIN[space]BIR Stamp no.

For example:

M7SMOOTH JOIN 1234567890

PROMO COVERAGE/DURATION:
- Promo coverage is nationwide.
- Promo runs Dec. 1, 2005 - Feb. 28, 2006.
- Grand Draw will be on March 10, 2006.

HAVE SMOOTH SATISFACTION AND WIN TODAY!

PRIZES		
Grand Draw	Three (3) Winners of 4D/3N Luxury Cruise for Two (2)	
Monthly Draw	December 2005	One (1) Winner of Technomarine Watch
	January 2006	One (1) Winner of Canon Powershot A400
	February 2006	One (1) Winner of Mini IPod
Daily Draw	Four (4) Winners of Mild Seven Lighters	

Only products in the new Mild Seven packaging are considered valid entries.
See Posters for details. Per BFAD Permit No. 0195, Series of 2005.

Government Warning : Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

Hawaii gov PWU speaker

HAWAII GOV. LINDA LINGLE WILL be the guest speaker at the luncheon forum on "Issues on Women Improvement" on Jan. 10 at Philippine Women's University Conrado Benitez Hall, Taft Avenue, Manila.

The forum to be participated in by members of government, NGOs and the academe was jointly organized by the National Council of Women in the Philippines (NCWP), National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW) and PWU.

Dr. Teresita Quirino, president of the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities and the Coordinating Council of Private Education Association and vice president at large of NCWP, will introduce the participants.

PWU and NCWP president Dr. Amelou B. Reyes will give the welcome address, while Consul in Hawaii Eva Batita and Myrna Yao, NCRFW chair, will also speak.

Lingle, the first woman governor of Hawaii, will be introduced by PWU chancellor Dr. Dolores Lasan.

Reactors will be Corazon Abad, president of the Lady Municipal Mayors Association of the Philippines; Dr. Nona Ricafort, CHEd commissioner and president of the Philippine Federation of Business and Professional Women; Dr. Amarylis Torres, NCRFW commissioner, and Dr. Amelita Go, Girl Scouts of the Philippines president.

The moderator will be PWU assistant vice president Suzie Benitez. PWU chair Dr. Helena Z. Benitez will deliver the closing address.

The PWU College of Music led by Dean Harold Galang with Laarni Losala, Gracenald Enero and guest artist Bai-Alabi Sindao Banisil will provide a musical interlude.

HAVE A COMPETITIVE EDGE!
Study at
VERNON TAPALLA'S
COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALISTS and THE WRITING INSTITUTE
BIG DISCOUNT PACKAGES

SCB	The Success & Confidence Building Program
CP1	On Speech Improvement, Effective Self-Presentations & Personality Development
CP2	On Grammar & Conversational English
CP3	On Public Speaking & Leadership Training
WP1	On Business & Technical Writing
WP2	On Feature & Creative Writing
JCP	On Speech, Grammar, Public Speaking, Confidence Bldg., Personality Dev't., + Reading and Comprehension for kids

PRIVATE TUTORING & CORPORATE TRAINING ARE AVAILABLE
MAKATI - 892-9502 / 892-9503 ALABANG - 845-0886

HONGKONG DISNEYLAND $165

HONGKONG+SHENZHEN	$99	KUALA LUMPUR+GENTING HIGHLANDS	$258
HONGKONG FREE & EASY	$133	SHANGHAI+HONGKONG+SHENZHEN	$299
5D/4N SHANGHAI	$169	SINGAPORE+MALAYSIA+INDONESIA	$309
BANGKOK FREE & EASY	$199	EAST COAST WITH CANADA	$568
SINGAPORE VIA PAL	$253	WILD WILD WEST	$1200
SHANGHAI+BEIJING	$299	EUROPEAN INTRODUCTION	$1700
		AFFORDABLE EUROPE	$1968

BORACAY	P 2334	BANAUE/SAGADA	P 4865
PALAWAN	P 4034	ILOCANDIA TOUR	P 5480

PROMO AIRFARES

HONGKONG	$ 75	SAIGON	$ 295	SYDNEY/BRISBANE	$ 495
BANGKOK	$ 185	KUALA LUMPUR	$ 205	LOS ANGELES/SFO	$ 765
XIAMEN	$ 185	GUAM	$ 356	HONOLULU	$ 720
SINGAPORE	$ 205	VANCOUVER	$ 765	EUROPE	$ 725

FIRST TIME IMMIGRANT FARES AT VERY LOW PRICE!!!
VISA ASSISTANCE, PASSPORT PROCESSING, DOMESTIC TICKETS & LOCAL PACKAGES, CAR RENTALS, HOTEL RESERVATIONS & EDUCATIONAL TOURS
AIR TRAVEL GUIDE & TOURS, INC.
2nd Floor Unit C Davis Bldg., A. Mabini cor. Sta. Monica Sts., Ermita, Manila
Tels.: 400-3013 / 303-1410 / 303-3608 / 303-1916 Fax : 522-0354
Cell# 0917-3295594 / 0922-8788871 E-mail: airtrvlguide@amadeusph.com
ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

INTERNATIONAL PACKAGES

Macau	$208	HKG/Shenzhen	$99
Hongkong Disney	$284	Bangkok	$229
Bangkok/Pattaya	$296	Singapore	$247
Sin/Mal/Indo	$316	Kuala Lumpur	$273
Singapore/Malaysia	$386	Saigon	$289
Shanghai	$419	Beijing	$460

BUDGET AIRFARES ALSO AVAILABLE

Singapore	$205	Beijing	$358
Macau	$238	Hongkong	$90
Bangkok	$205	LAX/SFO	$737

CARNELIAN HOLIDAY TOURS & TRAVEL
RM 301 3/F CABRERA 2 BLDG. #64 TIMOG AVENUE, QC
TEL. #S: 410-0469, 410-4800, 410-8117, 411-9051, 410-9265, 410-4801
CELLPHONE NUMBERS: 0922-8113214, 0916-2526027, 0919-8332788, 0917-8668378
[illegible] CARNELIANHOLIDAY@YAHOO.COM
OPEN MONDAYS TO SUNDAYS
WE DELIVER TICKETS AT NO EXTRA COST!!!
(WITHIN METRO MANILA ONLY)

IF YOU LOVE HER, DON'T TAKE HER FOR GRANTED...
TREAT HER TO A VALENTINES HONG KONG DISNEYLAND PACKAGE
FOR AS LOW AS $238
HURRY! LIMITED SEATS ONLY!

TICKET ONLY:					
		SAIGON	$225	LAX/SFO	$766
HONGKONG	$ 75	TOKYO	405	HONOLULU	716
BANGKOK	205	XIAMEN	213	JFK	866
SINGAPORE	205	SEOUL	375	VANCOUVER	765
KUALA LUMPUR	205	AUSTRALIA	565	EUROPE	746

OTHER INTERNATIONAL PACKAGES ALSO AVAILABLE
Magellan World Travel, Inc.
TEL NOS.: 527-4809 to 11 • 526-5006 • 526-5007 • FAX NO.: 526-5008

THE NUMBER ONE TRAVEL AGENCY IN METRO MANILA
shopper's choice #1
Philippine Airlines
Think Winlink.
FEEL THE MAGIC
CHRISTMAS WITH MICKEY
MEDICAL INSURANCE and PERSONAL TRAVEL ASSISTANCE BY assist-card
The largest travelers assistance network in the world

Disneyland Day Tour Family Package (3D)	269	1N HKG/1N SZX w/ HONG KONG DISNEY DAY TOUR	255
Disneyland Day Tour Family Package (4D)	285	Disneyland Overnight Family Package (4D)	307
Disneyland Overnight Family Package (3D)	292	2N SHA/1N SZX/1N HKG w/ HONG KONG DISNEY DAY TOUR	299

5D/4N BEST OF NEW ZEALAND TOUR [illegible] 1,161

5D SHANGHAI HALF-BOARD JANUARY 29&30 DEP. AS LOW AS $169
2N SHANGHAI W/ 2N BEIJING (Half board) JANUARY 29&30 DEP. AS LOW AS $299

5D Shanghai FULL BOARD	199	2N Shanghai/1N Hangzhou 1N Nanjing	199
Hong Kong Regular Package (3D/2N)	229	4D Fantastic Bangkok	209
4D/3N BANGKOK BONANZA	272	3D Kuala Lumpur via PHILIPPINE AIRLINES	243
3D/2N Brunei Getaway	300	4D Singapore + Malaysia and Indonesia	352
2N Hong Kong/2N Brunei w/ HK Disney Day Tour	437	6D Singapore + Kuala Lumpur	393
14D AFFORDABLE EUROPE TOUR	1,968	4D Saigon FULL BOARD	435
WE OFFER PASSPORT AND VISA ASSISTANCE		3D Singapore	289

[illegible] Puerto Galera P2,[illegible]

BUDGET FARES TO THE USA!

USA West Coast TICKET ONLY	345	USA East Coast TICKET ONLY	395

CALL US NOW FOR MORE USA, EUROPE, AND ASIAN DESTINATIONS!
WINLINK TRAVEL
CDC Bldg., 1105 M. Orosa St., Ermita, Manila, Philippines 1000
Fax • (632) 524-5809 / 526-2201
24HR Textline • (0918)349-8685
E-mail • winlink@mydestiny.net winlink_pkg@pldtdsl.net
(632) 525-6306 522-5446 522-7738 404-1231 404-1249
IATA PTAA
CUT AND SAVE
JANUARY 9 2006
All rates are quoted in US dollars (US$) unless otherwise indicated. Rates are subject to change without prior notice.

AIRFARES | EXCITING PACKAGES

AIRFARES		EXCITING PACKAGES	
Hongkong	P 3998	BANGKOK PACKAGE	$ 206
Kuala Lumpur	$ 196	BANGKOK + HONGKONG PKG	$ 346
Singapore	$ 199	KUALA LUMPUR + BANGKOK PKG (TG)	$ 404
Australia	$ 860	2N SINGAPORE + 2N KUALA PKG	$ 395
Europe	$ 708	SINGAPORE + HONGKONG PKG	$ 386
LAX/SFO	$ 629	SINGAPORE + BANGKOK + HONGKONG PKG	$ 494
East Coast	$ 728	2N HONGKONG + 2N KUALA LUMPUR PKG	$ 403
Seoul	$ 341	BEIJING PACKAGE (PAL)	$ 415
Shanghai	$ 318	SHANGHAI + BEIJING PKG (PAL)	$ 638
Beijing	$ 342	BANGKOK + ANKOR WAT	$ 494
Siemrep	$ 440	SHANGHAI (PAL)	$ 345
Cambodia	$ 341	2 HONGKONG only w/DISNEYLAND	$ 233
		EUROPEAN 10 DAYS TOUR	$1700

BORACAY 4779
PALAWAN 5048 / BOHOL 5750
CEBU 4761 / DAVAO 6199
CEBU+BOHOL 8999
MBO TOURS AND TRAVEL SERVICES
2/F 1095 Pablo Ocampo corner Conchu Sts., Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos.: 522-1107 / 484-3583 / 484-3581 / 530-8234 / 521-4744
09282860119 / 09172757128 / mbo_tourstravelservices@yahoo.com

MEGA SAVER'S PACKAGE

INT'L PACKAGE			
		SAIGON	$326
HKG/DISNEY DTOUR	$224	4D/3N GOLDCOAST	$207
HKG/DISNEY O/NITE	$272	4D/3N MELBOURNE	$236
BANGKOK	$241	6D/5N WEST COAST	$424
SINGAPORE	$290	9D/8N WEST COAST	$424
BANGKOK/PATTAYA	$296	4D/3N SYDNEY	$214
SIN/MALAYSIA	$386	LOCAL TOURS	
SIN/MAL/INDO	$316	PALAWAN	Php 5,000
KUALA LUMPUR	$273	BORACAY	Php 4,648
MACAU	$148	"STUDENT FIELD TRIPS"	
SEOUL	$538	NEGROS NAVIGATION TICKET	
BEIJING	$465	PASSPORT PROCESSING	
SHANGHAI	$389		

Seven Seas Travel and Tours
Unit 156 LCK SY DIAMOND BLDG., LIBERTAD, PASAY CITY
Tel. nos.: 833-1986 / 833-8637 / 833-1714 / 833-7173
e-mail: seas88@info.com.ph / seas882003@yahoo.com

PACKAGE PROMO

HONGKONG+SHENZHEN	$ 99	SAIGON Pkg	$ 283
HONGKONG REGULAR PACKAGE	$ 155	MACAU Pkg	$ 148
HKG+SHENZHEN+DISNEYLAND	$ 198	SHANGHAI Pkg	$ 199
BANGKOK PACKAGE	$ 198	SHA+BEIJING	$ 369
SINGAPORE PROMO PACKAGE	$ 251	GUAM Pkg	$ 435
SIN+MALAYSIA+INDONESIA	$ 308	SAIPAN Pkg	$ 426
SINGAPORE+KUALA LUMPUR	$ 395	PALAU Pkg	$ 531
KUALA LUMPUR Pkg	$ 267	SYDNEY Pkg	$ 768

INT'L TICKETS		DOMESTIC PKG	
HONGKONG	Php 5000	PUERTO GALERA	P3,500
BANGKOK	$ 185	LAOAG	P5,360
SINGAPORE	$ 205	BORACAY	P6,835
KUALA LUMPUR	$ 202	PALAWAN	P5,780
TOKYO	$ 420	CEBU	P5,465
SYDNEY	$ 570	BOHOL	P6,295
GUAM	$ 360	BACOLOD	P5,675
HONOLULU	$ 720	ILOILO	P5,530
WEST COAST	$ 740	DAKAK	P7,315
HOUSTON	$ 790	CAGAYAN DE ORO	P7,085
NEWARK	$ 840	DAVAO	P6,510
EAST COAST	$ 855		
VANCOUVER	$ 740		
EUROPE	$ 743		

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARD PAYMENT
PATISSE INT'L TRAVEL & TOURS
G/F LBB2 BLDG., 1933 SAN ANDRES ST., MALATE, MLA.
TEL. 5272330/5272348/4007701 to 02/5236954
Fax: 4007705 Cell: 0920-9510896/0919-2841767
E-mail: patissetrvl@amadeusph.com

MAGICAL JOURNEYS
PROMO

HONGKONG+SHENZHEN $98	HONGKONG+DISNEYLAND $159	BANGKOK $198	SINGAPORE $248	
BANGKOK+PATTAYA $298	SINGAPORE MALAY INDO $308	SINGAPORE+KUALA $385	KUALA LUMPUR $268	MACAU $148
SAIGON $278	GUAM $318	SHANGHAI $169	SHANGHAI+BEIJING $299	JAKARTA $368
KUALA+BANGKOK $418	SAIGON+KUALA $448	SEOUL $508	WEST COAST TOUR $418	EUROPE $1958

LOCAL TOURS		BUDGET FARES	
SUBIC (SAFARI TOUR)	P899	LAX/SFO/HNL/SEATTLE	$618
CORREGIDOR	P1690	LAS VEGAS	$638
ILOILO	P3385	CHI/WAS/NEW YORK	$728
CEBU	P2860	SYDNEY/BRISBANE	$498
BORACAY	P4565	LONDON/FRANKFURT	$768
BOHOL	P3470	VANCOUVER	$768
DAVAO	P3865	SAIGON	$298
BACOLOD	P3070	KUALA LUMPUR	$208
LAOAG	P4110	TAIWAN	$278
BANAUE+SAGADA	P4565	BANGKOK	$188
		SINGAPORE	$203
		HONGKONG	$89

DOLJUNTS INT'L TRAVEL & TOURS
Suite 1032, City & Land Mega Plaza, Tower, ADB Avenue cor. Garnet Road Ortigas Commercial Center, Pasig City
MOBILE: 0920-7893648, 0919-6826025; 0919-2951086
E-mail: doljunts_travel@yahoo.com
914-0398 to 99
687-2818
687-2739
687-2808
687-2984
687-2808

HONG KONG & DISNEYLAND

3D Hong Kong Package	US$ 168
4D Hong Kong Package	US$ 188
LIMITED SEATS ONLY!!! BOOK NOW!!!	
Hong Kong+ Daytour Disneyland	US$ 196
Hong Kong+Overnight Disneyland	US$ 244

ALSO AVAILABLE
SINGAPORE AND BANGKOK PACKAGES
BUDGET AIRFARES
REGULAR HONG KONG PACKAGES
IMAGE TRAVEL & TOURS 4040356 TO 58 / 5234226 / 5235830 / 5236201 / 4042176
SUNBRIGHT TOURS 6224709 / 6236617 / 6240564 / 6240896 / 6234816 / 6244246

ALL IN! - NO HIDDEN CHARGES
HONGKONG & Shenzhen $170
1 night Hongkong/1 night Shenzhen 3 DAYS / 2NIGHTS AIRPORT-HOTEL TRANSFERS CITY TOURS
Hong Kong Disneyland 3days 2nights $258
TRI-CITY *4days 3nights $374
SINGAPORE-MALAYSIA-INDONESIA
PALAWAN P1250 PUERTO GALERA P999 BAGUIO 1873/rm

HONGKONG	BANGKOK	SINGAPORE	DUBAI	SANFO/LAX
$165	$263	$258	$616	$998

MALL OUTLETS:
Market! Market! (0919) 422.0117
Robinsons Sta. Rosa (049) 637.0251
Robinsons Galleria (0918).7656102
BM Bacoor (046) 417.3213
Philippine Explorer
168 Mall 247.5705
Robinsons Manila 302.0095
Festival Supermall 842.9028
438-3942 • 438-5165 • 439-5982 • 0922-8-TRAVEL

SPECIAL PROMO!!!
P16,500
Plus 8 Telephone Units
(Brand New)
PANASONIC MAIN SYSTEM
- 3 Lines 8 Locals
- 12 Lines 48 Locals
- 500 Locals Expandable

Panasonic PABX
Authorized sub-dealer:
intel Communication Corp.
316 Aurelio Bldg. 1, 9th Ave. Caloocan City
363-1083 • 364-8277
FREE DEMO

Colors of Flying
HOLIDAY TREAT

HONGKONG + SHENZHEN	$ 99
HONGKONG	$115
HKG W/DISNEYLAND DAY TOUR	$185
KOTA KINABALU	$175
BANGKOK	$188
KUALA LUMPUR	$199
SINGAPORE	$120
SINGAPORE+MALAYSIA+INDO	$180
SINGAPORE+KUALA LUMPUR	$248
GUAM	$325
WEST COAST (Land Arragement Only)	$424
SEOUL	$515
EUROPE	$1988

AFFORDABLE FARES AND LOCAL PACKAGES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE
Member: PTAA RE-2005-341
COLORS TRAVEL & TOURS
[illegible] Paredes St., Binondo Manila
Tel: 241-[illegible] Tel/Fax: 242-[illegible] Mobile: 0922-8129961 & 0922-8129963
Email: ctt@colors-travel.com

traveling in appreciation of GOD's beautiful & bountiful creations
US WEST COAST TOUR
$1500
OPTIONAL EXTENSION TO MEXICO CITY & OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE $860
AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND
March 14-23 • $1850
CRUISE ON SALE
MAY 11 - 12N - MEDITERRANEAN GREEK ISLES
MAY 14 - 12N - SCANDINAVIA & RUSSIA
MAY 27 - 7N - MEDITERRANEAN
MAY 28 - 7N - HUBBARD GLACIER
JORDAN, ISRAEL & EGYPT
FEB. 20 - MAR. 03 • $1850
HIGHLIGHTS: AMMAN - PETRA - MT. NEBO - TIBERIAS - MT. TABOR - CANA - GALILEE - HAIFA - EIN KAREM - JERUSALEM - BETHLEHEM - QUMRAN - DEAD SEA - JERICHO - ST. CATHERINE - MT. SINAI - CAIRO - NILE RIVER CRUISE
INDIA - GOLDEN TRIANGLE TOUR
7Days • $925
HIGHLIGHTS: OLD & NEW DELHI • JAIPUR • AGRA • TAJ MAHAL
PIRKKO & TROYTOURS, INC.
Tels.: 688-8846 • 688-8658 • 687-2694 Fax: 688-8846
Unit 210 City & Land Mega Plaza (2nd flr. Parking Level) ADB Ave. cor. Garnet St., Ortigas Center, Pasig City
E-mail: pirkkotroy@gmail.com

Royal Tours

3N SHENZHEN+HONGKONG CITY TOUR	$ 98
1N HONGKONG+1N SHENZHEN	$ 99
2N SINGAPORE	$120
2N HONGKONG NO COMPULSORY TOUR	$134
2N HONGKONG+1N SZN+DISNEY DAYTOUR	$194
2N HONGKONG+DISNEY DAYTOUR	$194
2N BANGKOK	$229
1N HONGKONG WITH OVERNITE DISNEY	$242

Also available: International & Domestic Tickets and Tour Packages and Passporting
Royal Vacation Holiday Travel & Tours
523 Remedios Street, Malate, Manila
Tel. nos.: 524-9971 / 524-9987 / 521-6727 / 521-3288 Fax no.: 521-3288

恭 喜 發 財
CELEBRATE CHINESE NEW YEAR WITH A BANG!
HONGKONG SHENZHEN DISNEYLAND For as low as: $286
SHANGHAI HONGKONG SHENZHEN DISNEYLAND For as low as: $289
SHANGHAI BEIJING For as low as: $289
UNIQUELY Singapore For as low as: $294
HONGKONG FREE&EASY 5D/4N For as low as: $248
BANGKOK 4D/3N $240
SHANGHAI 5D/4N $159
YEAR OF THE FIRE DOG
AIRFARE ONLY

•HONGKONG	$172	•SHANGHAI	$315
•SINGAPORE	242	•BEIJING	350
•BANGKOK	215	•SFO/LAX	900
•KUALA LUMPUR	231	•VANCOUVER	800

LOCAL TOURS IN BORACAY, CEBU, BOHOL & PALAWAN AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST
ARK TRAVEL EXPRESS
Unit LG, 3 & 4 Alfaro Place, 146 Alfaro St., Salcedo Vill., Makati City
Tel. Nos.: 893-7306 • 893-4979 • 893-7279 892-2259 • 816-1999 • 819-3291
e-mail: ark travel@pacific.net
IATA

China Panorama
Chinese New Year Special Offer

B1 3-4	Beijing 3 - 4 Days	Every Tuesday, Friday, Sunday Special Departure 1/27, 1/29, 1/31
B2A-5	Beijing, Tianjin 5 Days	
C1B-6	Beijing, Shanghai 6 Days	
C1B6T	Beijing w/express train to Shanghai 6 Days	
C1C-8	Beijing, Xian, Shanghai 8 Days	
H1	Shanghai 4 Days	Every Fri, Sat, Sun & 1/27 to 1/31 Daily
H2-3	Shanghai, Hangzhou, Suzhou 4 - 6 Days	

• Optional tour: Snow skiing activities now available in Beijing & Shanghai

W1	Harbin Ice & Snow Festival 4 Days	1/17, 1/27, 1/29, 1/31
W3	Harbin, Beijing 6 Days	
W4	Harbin, Shanghai 6 Days	

For more details pls. contact your nearest travel agency or . . .
PANDA TRAVEL SERVICE INC.
479 - 481 Sto. Cristo Street, Binondo, Manila
Tels.: 242-2585 Trunk line Fax : 242-2650 ; 242-2652
http://www.pandatour.com
IATA PTAA DOT153-00

TRAVEL PLAZA INCORPORATED IATA

PROMO TICKETS		INT'L. PACKAGE	
HONGKONG	$174	3D2N HKG+SHENZHEN	$ 99
SINGAPORE	$200	3D2N HONGKONG	$ 115
BANGKOK	$185	DISNEYLAND/HKG+SZN	$ 218
TAIPEI	$240	BANGKOK PKG	$ 198
JAPAN	$350	SINGAPORE PKG	$ 135
KUALA LUMPUR	$197	KUALA LUMPUR PKG	$ 196
XIAMEN	$179	SIN/KUL/INDONESIA	$ 180
SYDNEY/BRISBANE	$560	XIAMEN PKG	$ 343
SFO/LAX/HONOLULU	$609	SAIGON PKG	$ 318
NEW YORK	$722	GUAM PACKAGE	$ 330
EUROPE	$660	HOLYLAND PKG	$ 1898
GUAM	$270	(ALL PACKAGES EXCLUDING TAXES)	

DOMESTIC PACKAGE	
BOHOL PKG	P 5205
BORACAY PKG	P 6635
DAVAO PKG	P 6215
CEBU PKG	P 5265
PALAWAN PKG	P 5580
DAKAK PKG	P 7115

Other INTERNATIONAL and DOMESTIC TICKETS/PACKAGES are available.
We also offer PASSPORTING/VISA ASSISTANCE & other documentation needs
1089 Pablo Ocampo Street, Malate, Manila
Tel.: 524-1405 / 524-0987 / 524-1477
0917-8003641 / 0919-5321555 JO/PAUL

Special Promo Package
HONGKONG $99 $125 $135
BANGKOK $198 $209 $219
SINGAPORE $233 $268 $280
BUDGET FARES :

HONGKONG	$ 235	HONOLULU	$ 830
BANGKOK	$ 206	AUSTRALIA	$ 638
SINGAPORE	$ 247	NEW YORK	$ 1,060
VANCOUVER	$ 465	NAGOYA	$ 490
OSAKA	$ 370	TAIPEI	$ 265
TOKYO	$ 450	SEOUL	$ 445
LAX / SFO	$ 930	TORONTO	$ 915

3 NITES HONGKONG 1 NITE SHENZHEN $218
SINGAPORE MALAYSIA INDONESIA $295
3 NITES SHENZHEN WINDOW OF THE WORLD $200
3 NITES HONGKONG 1 NITE SHENZHEN DISNEYLAND DAY TOUR $298
OTHER INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC TICKETS/PACKAGES ARE AVAILABLE
WE ALSO OFFER PASSPORTING VISA ASSISTANCE & NSO
SANS TRAVEL & TOURS
MAIN: P. TUAZON CUBAO TEL# 913-9840, 913-9808, 438-8857 439-8749, 439-3847 CELL.#: 0916-8861084, 0919-8484347, 0920-8414440
BRANCH: WEST AVE. Q.C. TEL: 376-2810, 376-28[illegible] 410-8899, 410-[illegible] CEL#: 0927-6903082
Website: www.sanstravelandtours.com
ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

SKYNET TRAVEL CORPORATION
IATA PTAA PIATA PTTC
G/F & 2/F TSE and Sons Bldg. 1743 A. Mabini St. Malate
Tel. Nos. 400-0509 to 10 • 521-7596 to 98
Fax No.: 526-6364 • 526-6682 • Mobile No.: (0921) 445-1778
Email: stc@skynettravelcorp.com or skynettravel@amadeusph.com
BOOKING OFFICES: Baguio: (074) 446-9834 • Cainta: 284-2097
Cavite: (046) 417-2707 • Iloilo: (033) 5084151 • Legaspi: (052)480-5293 • Marikina: 943-4281
Ozamis: (088) 5211555 • Tacloban: (053) 325-8254 • Tuguegarao: (078) 8460932
We are open [illegible]
WE ALSO OFFER OTHER INT' DESTINATIONS [illegible] PASSPORT DOCUMENTATION & VISA ASSISTANCE
NOW OPEN ST. FRANCIS SQUARE ORTIGAS CENTER BRANCH
Unit-K, Basement 1 Julia Vargas Avenue Cor. Bank Drive Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City (Back of SM Megamall) Tel # 633-2399, 633-9976, 635-6211
Telefax# 631-8354 Email skynettravel-ort@amadeusph.com
OPENS DAILY FROM 10AM-9PM
The 1st 100 to book or reserve Gets a FREE BAG
VERY LOW AIRFARE FOR DOMESTIC AND INT'L ARE ALSO AVAILABLE
DOMESTIC PACKAGES

CEBU 3D/2N	PALAWAN 3D/2N	DAVAO 3D/2N	BORACAY 3D/2N
P3,598	P4,693	P5,503	P6,999 all in

INTERNATIONAL PACKAGES

1N HKG+1N SHZN 3D/2N	SHANGHAI 5D/4N half board	SHANGHAI 5D/4N full board	HKG+DISNEYLAND DAYTOUR 3D/2N full board
99	169	199	195

HKG COMPULSARY 3D/2N	115	KUALA LUMPUR 3D/2N	275
2N HKG+1N SZHN 4D/3N	125	BRUNEI 3D/2N	295
HKG FREE AND EASY 3D/2N	133	SIN+MALAYSIA+ INDONESIA 4D/3N	309
2N HKG+1N SHZN W/ OCEANPARK	185	HKG/SHZN/BJS W/ SHA DAYTOUR 6D/5N	345
HKG/SHZN/MACAU 4D/3N	185	SIN+KUL OVERLAND 6D/5N	393
BANGKOK 3D/2N	225	EUROPEAN TOUR 12D/11N	1698
SINGAPORE 3D/2N	253	HOLYLAND TOUR 12D/11N	1898

Rates Are Subject To Change [illegible]

木蘭旅行社
MULAN TRAVEL SERVICE CORP.
2006 LUXURY TOURS

4D SHANGHAI	Jan 20, Feb 13
6D SHANGHAI/HANGZHOU-SUZHOU	Jan 16
4D BEIJING	Jan 24, Feb 10
6D BEIJING/SHANGHAI	Jan 24, Feb 10
6D HARBIN SKI TOUR	

CUSTOMIZED PACKAGES (create your own itinerary)
CORPORATE AND INCENTIVE TOURS

5D WINTER IN KOREA		Jan 2[illegible], Feb [illegible]
14D AFFORDABLE EUROPE	$ 1,988	Mar 28
7D VIETNAM CAMBODIA		Jan 23
12D HOLYLAND	$ 1,898	Mar 19
5D EXOTIC INDIA		Mar 29, Apr 12
AUSTRALIAN PACKAGES		
NEW ZEALAND PACKAGES		
5,6,8D SUPERSTAR VIRGO CRUISE		

PTAA member
525 E.T. YUCHENGCO ST. (FORMER NUEVA ST.) BINONDO, MANILA
Tel : 244-9690/92, 245-4658, 309-1758, 309-3723 Fax: [illegible]
Email: travelmulan@yahoo.com or mulantravel@hotmail.com Cell. No.: [illegible]

SANI-KING
PORTALET CORP.
No. 2929 C. Raymundo Ave.,
Caniogan, Pasig City

Special Events?

New PORTABLE TOILETS
for all outdoor activities
Construction Projects
Ground Breaking
Trade Exhibits
Concerts
School Events
Fairs/Parties

Also Available:
SEPTIC TANK SERVICES

For further inquiries, please call or fax us at telephone nos.
641-4071
642-0920

Vallift FORKLIFT

- DIESEL AND ELECTRIC UNITS
- ISUZU C240 DIESEL ENGINE
- DURABLE, EASY TO MAINTAIN
- RELIABLE AFTER SALES SERVICE
- AVAILABLE SPARE PARTS

- BT INDOOR TRUCKS
- REACH TRUCKS
- POWER PALLET TRUCKS
- STACKERS
- HAND PALLET TRUCKS

SALES • LEASE • RENT • PARTS • SERVICE

HANDLING INNOVATION, INC.
Tel.: (632) 822-2321; 823-8377; 823-8927; 541-4289; 541-4290
Fax: 822-3232 • E-MAIL : hiisales@globequest.com.ph

VIPER AUTOGATE

convert your gate to remote control
Automatic Gate Opener

P35,000
Swing Type / Slide Type
FREE INSTALLATION
CALL 886-6696/788-0221
Cebu-(032)346-5498 / Davao-(082)235-8821
Available @ MC Home Depot Fort, Ortigas & Mkt.

COPIERS Sales/Rentals
RICOH • Canon • Olivetti • Savin
Also Available : LIQUID COPIERS

BRAND NEW CANON IR 1210 BEST FOR BUS. P 39,950. ONLY
P15,000. ONLY POWDER TYPE FT 3320, 15 CPM
BRAND NEW CANON FC 200 FOR PERSONAL USE P15,000. ONLY
P20,000. ONLY RECON RICOH FT 3813 BEST FOR BUSINESS
PARTS & SUPPLIES AVAILABLE FOR MOST COPIER BRANDS.

COPYTRADE
Copytrade Bldg. 550 MF Jhocson St. Sampaloc, Manila (Beside Nat'l Univ)
Tels. 749-8155 to 56
781-3472 • 749-8216
www.copytrade.com.ph

- RINGBINDERS / LAMINATORS CUTTERS/BLUEPRINT/RISO
- FAX MACHINES, ETC.
- ACCEPT COPIER RENTALS FOR SHORT EVENTS
- BUY/TRADE-IN OLD COPIERS

Restore your defective equipment at Affordable Cost!
We Specialize in
LAPTOP & FAX REPAIRS
We also repair:
- PC's • Printer • Monitors
- Electronic Typewriters
- UPS • Shredders & Others

FOR MULTI-USERS AVAIL OF OUR MAINTENANCE PROGRAM
Best in Customer Satisfaction Samsung Electronics AWARDED

BUSINESSCARE S.T.C. Inc.
Ortigas Center Makati/Manila
687-6425/687-4213/817-0977/817-0917

EXECUTIVE DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY
A Training and Development Center
established since 1968
4/F, Manila Astral Tower, 1330 Taft Ave. cor.P. Faura, Manila
Tel. Nos. 521-8236; 524-5323; 524-6813 Fax: 526-4789

SCHEDULE OF SEMINARS IN JANUARY 2006

- ACCOUNTING FOR NON -ACCOUNTANT
  January 21 - February 18, 2006 Saturday 9:00 AM -12:00 NN
- SUPERVISORY DEVELOPMENT AND LEADERSHIP TRAINING
  January 16 - 27, 2006 M-W-F 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
- TEAM DEVELOPMENT FOR MANAGERS AND SUPERVISORS
  January 16 - February 13, 2006 Monday 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM
- NEGOTIATION AND DECISION MAKING STRATEGIES FOR MANAGERS AND SUPERVISORS
  January 18 - February 15, 2006 Wed. 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM
- STRATEGIC PLANNING
  January 20 - February 17, 2006 Friday 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM
- PROJECT FEASIBILITY STUDIES
  January 21 - February 18, 2006 Saturday 9:00 AM-12:00 NN
- EFFECTIVE ORAL COMMUNICATION
  January 21 - February 11, 2006 Saturday 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM
- OFFICE MGT. FOR SECRETARIES & PERSONAL ASSISTANTS
  January 17 - 26, 2006 T-Th 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM
- PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT
  January 14, 2006 Saturday 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM
- BASIC PURCHASING MANAGEMENT
  January 17 & 24, 2006 Tuesday 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM
- WORK SIMPLIFICATION AND IMPROVEMENT TECHNIQUES FOR MANAGERS AND SUPERVISORS
  January 14 & 21, 2006 Saturday 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM
- HANDLING COMPLAINTS AND DIFFICULT CUSTOMERS
  January 21, 2006 Saturday 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

EDA Training Programs are accredited by
CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

EDA Courses are also available on Tutorial or In-house basis

idec
AIR CONDITIONING
Split Type Aircon
1hp-P16,500
1.5hp-P18,500, 2hp-P25,000, 2.5hp-P30,000
Floor Mounted
3hp-P39,500 5hp-P55,000
Free Installation!
Call: 8866696/7880221
Available at MC Home Depot -Makati, Fort Bonifacio & Ortigas
Cebu-(032)346-5498 / Davao-(082)235-8821

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES
KX1008 KX2008 KX5006(HBG) KX4036A(HBG)
Oxygen Concentrator KX5L
Buy Now While Supplies Last!

ALSO AVAILABLE!!!
MEDICAL SUPPLIES & ALL TYPES OF CATHETERS
FREE DELIVERY WITHIN METRO MANILA!

- Bedsore Matress
- Bubble Humidifier
- Microscope
- Oxygen Concentrator
- Shadowless Operation Lamp
- Sphygmomanometer
- Stethoscope
- Suction Machine
- Ultrasonic Nebulizer
- Ultrasound Gel
- Weighing Scale
- Wheel Chair
- Surgical Sutures
- Plaster of Paris
- Urine Drainage Bag
- Gauze Bandage

INTRAPLAS TRADING
4 Apo St., Q.C.
Tel.: 410-7848; 410-7554; 415-4294

LIMITED STOCK
CE ISO9001
LOWEST PRICE
3 TON HEAVY DUTY
HAND PALLET TRUCK
P10,999.00
HIGH QUALITY

POWERMAN HARDWARE
528 T. ALONSO ST., STA. CRUZ, MANILA
Tel. No.: 733-3711 • 738-8554 • 734-7534
ALSO AVAILABLE AT
4 APO ST., Q.C. - NEAR ROTONDA
Tel.: 731-8811 • 731-8822 • 748-5418

LEASE - TO - OWN
WHY PAY CASH for PABX?
Exciting promo! To enhance your company image!
4 Lines / 10 Locals up to 128 Locals
Digital Keyphone System
Wireless PABX System

- ✓Easy to use through keyphone
- ✓Use by: Callcenter, Hospital, Financial Office, Municipality and other Agencies.
- ✓With caller I.D.
- ✓Flexible capacity
- ✓Connect with wired terminal
- ✓Easy installation and operation
- ✓No additonal line set-up required
- ✓Free call between extension lines
- ✓Competitive price and advance technology
- ✓Dial restriction (long distance call and international call)
- ✓Direct and speedy call by carrying along the wireless handset
- ✓Convenient and efficient wireless communication using wireless terminals

CCTV • MULTILINE PHONE • COMPUTER NETWORKING
EVERTEL 715-8114 411-2100 www.evertelphils.com PLDT & NTC Accredited

IWATA MORE THAN 20 YEARS IN THE MARKET NOW
TIME RECORDERS
CH-1A P8,850 E2-A 9,800 CW-1A 12,850
1/2color ribbon, int/ext melody, 6cols printing, operates during brownouts
PROJECTOR IWATA 3E P5,985
SEALERS IMPULSE & DIRECT
HAND SEALER 8"- P525 4"- P470
14" FOOT SEALER P8,900
IWATA IND'L FAN Heavy duty 3 steel blades 26" Diameter P3,850 30" Diameter P3,980
MINERAL WATER POT 5 Stage Filtration 15 Lts capacity X-MAS OFFER P950.00
IWATA MONEY COUNTER w/ UV detector P6,950
PAPER SHREDDER Cross Cut, Can shred Credit Cards, Cd's & Staple Wires (S-1500)
HAND DRYER PUSH BUTTON P6,700 AUTOMATIC P6,700
IWATA LAMINATOR 8.5"-3,500 / 12"-3,800 / 17.5"-8,350
P13,900
MB-777 P2,850
IWATA STAMPING MACHINE (Date, Month, Year, Time Co. Name)
SOLE DISTRIBUTOR
COLENT ENTERPRISE CO.
TELS 412-4317, 740-3815, 742-8138/39/40, 742-8142, 411-2396 TO 98

Tired of traffic? Walk the distance
Buy me now, I'm walking distance

NEW Rada Regency

Own a unit for as low as **P12,788** monthly
Rada St., Legaspi Village, Makati City
24-storey comm'l & res'l condominium
CITYLAND
Leading Condominium Developer
Presidential Awardee
812-2222 • 243-6565 • 818-8888 • 241-1894
WWW.CITYLAND.NET INVESTMENT@CITYLAND.NET

Most Practical Choice:
Multi-Use Cleaners

Commando 4003
- Car Washer/Multi-Purpose Cleaner
- 1500 PSI • 2.5 HP

Commando 707
- Car Washer/Multi-Purpose Cleaner
- 90 BAR • 2.5 HP

FREE DELIVERY within Metro Manila With AFTER SALES SERVICE
Major Credit Cards Accepted. Deferred Payments Up To 24 Mos.
Exclusively Distributed by:
CLEANCITY COMMERCIAL INCORPORATED
MANILA: 1851 M. OROSA ST., MALATE, MLA.
Tel. Nos.: 5244328 • 5240529 • 5245290
Q.C.: 646 QUEZON AVE. Tel. 7490581 • 7493709

COPYSTAR OFFICE AUTOMATION
Introducing CLEAR POWDER COPIER
RECONDITIONED
Canon IC-MF 3112
RICOH FT 4015 Reducer/Enlarger w/ A3 size For only P20,000
RICOH FT 3320 For only P11,000
Brand new Multifunction Copier
ALSO AVAILABLE :
LAMINATOR, FAX MACHINE & RING BINDER
SALES: 8997104 • 8997101 to 03
8997045 • 8997075 to 76 • 8997023
MAIN OFFICE: COPYSTAR Bldg. 948 J. P. Rizal Ave., near cor. Makati Ave., Makati City • Fax: 895-7802
CEBU OFFICE: 178 Sansiangko St., Cebu City • Tel. Nos.: (032) 255-0504 • (032) 256-3368 to 69
PAMPANGA: Mc Arthur Highway, Dolores, City of San Fernando Tel. Nos.: (045) 963-5055 • (045) 860-0383

MIST FAN COOLING SYSTEMS
Convert your existing fan into an Evaporative Cooling System
Instant temperature reduction up to 40°F!
Reduce your electricity bill to as much as 40% from aircon usage!

Ceiling Wall Mount
Perfect for:
Gymnasiums • Factories • Greenhouse • Foundries • Outdoor Retails • Warehouse • Veranda • Sports Events • Restaurants • Livestocks • Manufacturing Plants • Church • Clubhouse • Garden Parties • Family Gatherings, etc.
For inquiries & free estimates, call now!
COOL MIST INTERNATIONAL
Pioneer & Industry Leader since 1996
Telefax: 639-1077 Tel. No: 639-1657
SALES / RENTALS / DESIGNS / INSTALLATION SERVICES AVAILABLE

Travel SAFE Travel SURE Travel with US FREE TRAVEL INSURANCE!!!

$750 WINTER IN KOREA
DEP. DATE: JAN 27-31
SEOUL/EVERLAND/ LOTTEWORLD/ SKI TOUR/NAMI ISLAND/ "AQUAWORLD"/COSU CAVE/ CHUGJU LAKE CRUISE/ SHOOTING PLACES
"FULL HOUSE, WINTER SONATA/STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN"

$865 VIETNAM W/ CAMBODIA
DEP. DATE: JAN 23-29
HO CHI MINH/ CU CHI TUNNEL/ MEKONG DELTA RIVER/ SOUTH GATE OF ANGKOR THOM/ "JUNGLE TEMPLE" OF THA PROM/ ANGKOR WAT TEMPLE
See shooting place of "TOMB RAIDERS"

$950 EXOTIC INDIA
DEP. DATE: MAR 29- APR 02
OLD AND NEW DELHI/"PINK CITY"/ AMBER FORT/JAG MANDIR/ TEMPLE OF KALI/HAWA MAHAL/ MAHARAJA'S CITY PALACE/ FATEHPUR SIKRI

PROMO FARES!

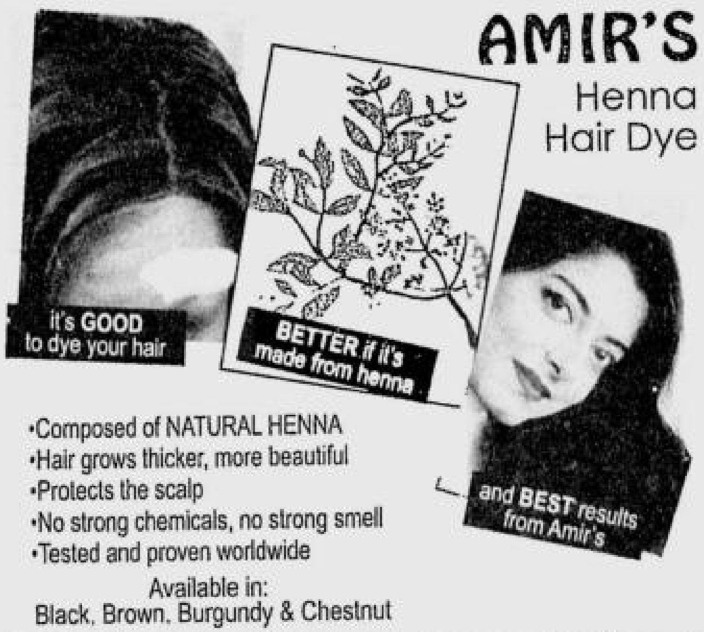
SEOUL	$466	SFO-LAX	$945
SINGAPORE	$295	HNL	$945
BANGKOK	$205	GUAM	$360
HONGKONG	$179	VANCOUVER	$900
SAIGON	$225	TORONTO	$1025
KUALALUMPUR	$202	WINNIEPEG	$1000
SHARNGHAI	$380	QUEBEC	$1035
BEIJING	$380	SYD MEL	$675
XIAMEN	$194	AMS PAR ROM	$1.120
SIEM REP	$445	ATHENS	$1.120
OSAKA	$400	LONDON	$1.120

PACKAGES

SEOUL	$595	Inclusions.
SAIGON	$305	Roundtrip Airfare
SINGAPORE	$375	Roundtrip Transfers
BANGKOK	$272	3d/2n hotel accom.
HONGKONG	$280	City tour except Saigon
KULALUMPUR	$310	Daily breakfast

RAKSO
G/F All Seasons Bldg., 112 Aguirre St., Legaspi Village, Makati City
Trunk No. 812-9067 9 Fax No. 8402484; 812-8035
E-mail address: rakso@mozcom.com; ling_rakso@yahoo.com
IATA PTAA

AMIR'S
Henna Hair Dye



it's GOOD to dye your hair
BETTER if it's made from henna
and BEST results from Amir's

- Composed of NATURAL HENNA
- Hair grows thicker, more beautiful
- Protects the scalp
- No strong chemicals, no strong smell
- Tested and proven worldwide

Available in:
Black, Brown, Burgundy & Chestnut

Now available at all mercury drug nationwide
Selected Malls, Beauty Supply Stores, PX Stores and other Retail Stores.

VICTORY LINER, INC
"we move people better... safer!"

OFFERS BUS RENTALS
from MANILA to:

- PANGASINAN
- OLONGAPO
- ZAMBALES
- BATAAN
- BAGUIO
- LA UNION

HURRY!!! AVAIL OF SPECIAL DISCOUNTED RATES WHEN YOU BOOK FOR TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY OR THURSDAY TRIPS

CALL Victory Liner Tourist Section
361-1506 Local 1106
361-1514 Fax at 361-1519

CALOOCAN TERMINAL • PASAY TERMINAL • SAMPALOC TERMINAL
KAMIAS TERMINAL • CUBAO TERMINAL

BLUE BOZ WATER TREATMENT TECHNOLOGY
"Your Strategic Partner in Water Station Business"
Php 295,000
AVAIL INSTALLMENT PLAN PROMO

SUPPORT SERVICE PRODUCTS
Sediment Filters & Carbon Cartridges, Slim Blue Housings, R.O. Membranes and UV Lamps.
Cap & Plastic Cap Seal
Heatgun
Pet Bottles & 5 Gal PC Bottle
Caustic Soda and Solar Salt
TABLE TOP Water Dispenser
HOT & COLD Water Dispenser

WITH MORE THAN 200 STORES NATIONWIDE
PHILIPPINE FRANCHISE ASSOCIATION (Member)
WATER QUALITY ASSOCIATION (Member)
FRANCHISE NOW!
Independent are also welcome

OTHER PRODUCTS & SERVICES
- Made to order stickers
- Reverse Osmosis Membranes
- Pump & Motors
- UV Sterilizers & Ozonators
- Filters & Cartridges
- Uprgading of System

FREE
- 5 years free Maintenance by Highly Professional Engineers and Technicians.
- Water store layout and design
- Excellent staff training.
- Extended marketing support and strategies

"Safe Water for a Better Life"
FOR INQUIRIES CALL:
634-8542 / 634-1207
VISIT US AT: www.bluebozwater.com
Unit 107 Parc Royale Condominium, Jade St., Ortigas Center, Pasig City
"ONE STOP SHOP FOR ALL YOUR WATER STORE NEEDS"

ROTORCOMP
Screw Air Compressor
Made by Bauer of Germany
- Below 2ppm Oil Discharge
- 10 to 600 HP (7 to 13 Bars)
- Tropicalized Cooling System
- 30 % Larger than Standard
- Air Ends w/ Rolling Profile 10 yrs. Warranty
- Steel Tube Piping, no hose connections
- Oil separator & Filter Changed in Minutes

SWAN air compressors
- One year warranty
- Air cooled 2 HP to 30 HP
- Single stage & two stage models
- Heavy duty cast iron construction
- High volume discharge at low RPM
- Automatic unloader & pressure switch system

TRIDENT
DRYSPELL
DESICCANT
COMPRESSED
AIR DRYERS

BLOWERS AND VACUUM BOOSTERS
HIGH PERFORMANCE LOW-COST BLOWERS
LONGTECH
Made in Taiwan
KAWAKE RING BLOWER
- Capacity up to 200 m³/min
- For Blowing and Vacuum
- Applications:
  - Wastewater Treatment,
  - Chemical / Gas Processing
  - Environmental,
  - Pneumatic Conveying,
  - Industrial,
  - Food Processing
  - and many more

VICTOR HARDWARE
887-889 G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City, Philippines
Tel.: (632) 743-6761 • Fax: 743-4687 & 732-9160
E-mail: victorhardware@i-manila.com.ph

More kids fall ill to bird flu in Turkey

DOGUBAYAZIT, TURKEY—TURKISH OFFICIALS STRUGGLED TO contain an epidemic of avian influenza among flocks of poultry on Saturday, galvanized by the deaths of three children from the H5N1 virus and news that two more were infected.

The World Health Organization said on Saturday it had confirmed that two children hospitalized in Turkey were infected with the H5N1 strain, making four confirmed human cases in Turkey, the sixth country where the bird flu strain has jumped from poultry to people.

Two teenaged siblings in eastern Turkey died from the virus earlier this week and WHO was checking tests on their 11-year-old sister, who died and who also tested positive for bird flu.

The virus has been spreading since October among flocks in Turkey, having moved west from Southeast Asia, but no people in Turkey had been reported infected until this week.

Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan asked Turks not to hide poultry to escape bird flu culls but residents of eastern Turkey said efforts to control the outbreak were disorganized.

"We apply to the officials but they don't come to take our chickens. I cannot bring them myself. I have no money," a middle-aged man said in Dogubayazit, the town where the dead children lived, near the Armenian and Iranian borders.

A Reuters reporter saw chickens still walking on the streets and some escaping just before they were carried in large bags to be buried alive in pits.

Erdogan said the government was taking all necessary measures and allocating funds to combat the spread of the disease, CNN Turk reported.

"Peoples' losses will be compensated. Nobody will be allowed to suffer losses," he told reporters late on Friday. *Reuters*

TOP QUALITY
Water Refilling Station Systems
and Replacement Parts

WATERCARE MARKETING, PHILIPPINES
3933 L. Roces Cor. Santol St.,
Sampaloc, Manila, Philippines 1008
Tel. #: (632) 716-6998 (trunkline)
Wholesale: 716-8080 (bulk orders only)
Industrial Dept.: (632) 716-0880
Fax. #: (632) 716-0903
E-mail: watercare@ph.inter.net

Also Available At:
- SM Megamall, 5/F Bldg. A Tel. #: 633-2510
- SM City Fairview, LGF Tel. #: 417-6622
- SM City Southmall, UGF Tel. #: 806-9393
- SM City Cebu, LGF Tel. #: (032) 233-0252
- MC Home Ortigas Tel. #: 638-5201
- MC Home Fort Bonifacio Tel. # 815-4270

Member of:
WaterCare®
MARKETING PHILIPPINES
13 YEARS WaterCare 1993-2006

Bringing the World's Best in
Water Treatment to the Filipino People
PENTEK

AUTHORIZED DISTRIBUTOR & IMPORTER OF,
Pentek Filter Cartridges & Housings, Structural Tanks, Fleck Control Valves, GE Osmonics, FSI Filterbags, Badgermeter, R-can Sterilight UV, Hydranautics Membranes, Rusco, & many others

"Quality Water, Quality Life"

© 2005 WaterCare Marketing Philippines. All Rights Reserved.

KITONE®
LUBRICATION EQUIPMENT

20L Pneumatic Grease Pump
80L Pneumatic Grease Pump
80L Pneumatic Oil Drain
80L Pneumatic Oil Changer
20L Manual Grease Pump
20L Manual Oil Pump
30L Manual H-D Grease/Oil Pump
80L Manual H-D Oil Pump
Industrial Car Washer
CAT PUMP The Pump w/ 9 Lives
Hydraulic Car Lifter

Exclusive Distributor
FACILITY INTEGRATED SYSTEM
164 n. Carpio St., 6th Ave., Caloocan City
Tels.: 365-78-66 to 68 Fax: 02-364-00-69

A Gift of Health is a Wise Move!

New Year starts with a resolution to achieve good health. Gift your love ones C-Lium® Fibre and share with them the priceless joy of rediscovering well-being and good health for years to come.

helps eliminate constipation
helps reduce weight
helps reduce cholesterol
helps reduce the risk of heart disease
helps control blood sugar
helps prevent sickness

Psyllium fibre is endorsed by:
National Heart Foundation
American Heart Foundation
THE SOUTH BEACH DIET
HALAL
FDA US Food & Drug Administration
SAFE QUALITY FOOD 2000 CERTIFIED SGS0 01310 HACCP Approved

Available at:
mercury drug
AND ALL LEADING DRUG STORES

Distributed by:
PHILUSA CORPORATION TEL: 631-1731 to 39 Fax: 635-6510 to 11

C-Lium® Fibre
For a healthier stomach

Tel.: (632) 5246549 E-mail: info@celiumfibre.com Website: www.celiumfibre.com

RECOMMENDED BY GASTROENTEROLOGISTS, MEDICAL AND HEALTH PRACTITIONERS.
TXT 4 INFO: LUZON 09167410346 • VISAYAS 09102932635 • MINDANAO 09212600228

'Bigfoot' fever grips Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR—Excitement is mounting in Malaysia over claims of "Bigfoots" lurking in its southern jungles, with wildlife experts on the hunt for the mythical beast and a telephone hotline set up to report sightings.

Bigfoot fever erupted last month when some fish farm workers claimed to have spotted three of the beasts—two adults and a youngster—on the edge of a forest reserve in southern Johor state.

Their improbable tale was lent some authority soon after when an Orang Asli—an indigenous ethnic group known for their expertise in the jungle—also said he had stumbled across one of the legendary ape-men.

"He saw the creature which was hairy and brownish in color, it was about 12 feet tall," said Johor National Parks director Hashim Yusoff.

"It was not aggressive, but the Orang Asli was startled by the creature and ran away.

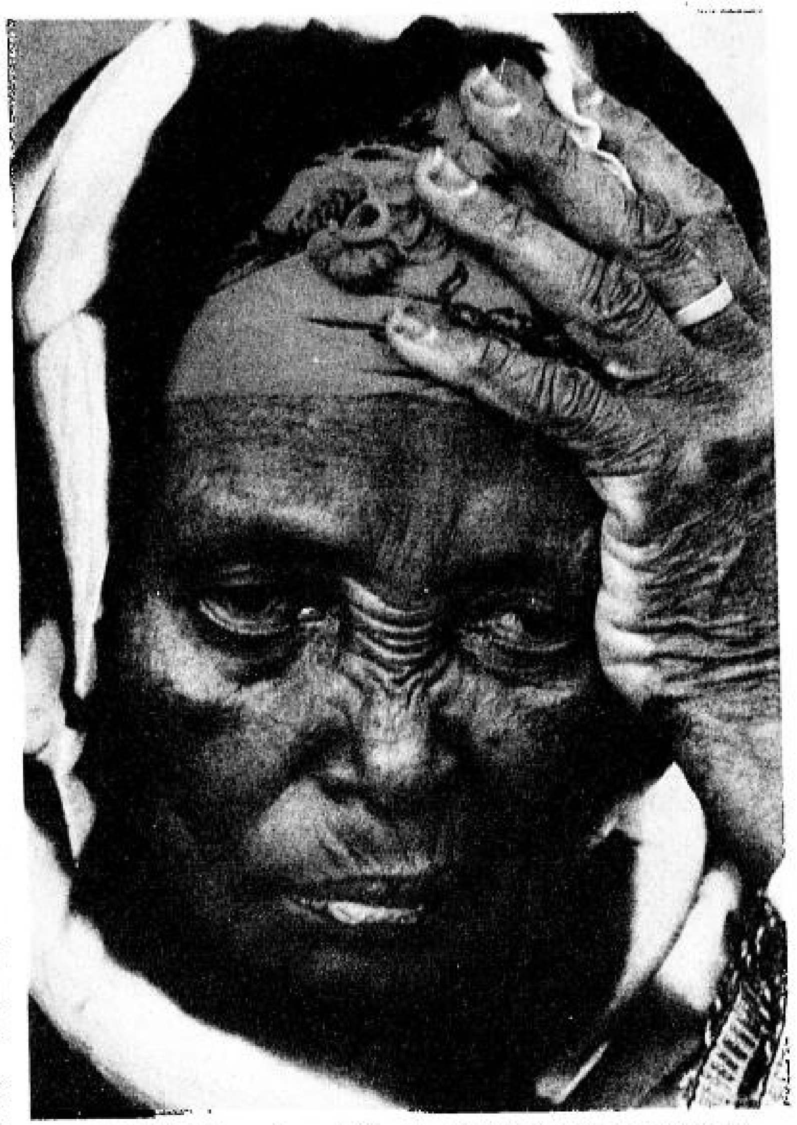
"My personal feeling is that there is a possibility it could be what we call in Malaysia the 'mawas' ... more of a primate," he said. "But we don't deny the sightings," he added, insisting that the Orang Asli "do not lie."

"We've got to prove it and we've got to do it scientifically."

Wildlife authorities have embarked on a quest to verify the claims, and are considering mounting camera traps to capture images of anything roaming the jungles.

After a month of fruitless searching and interviews with people living near the forests, a telephone hotline has now been set up for members of the public who claim to have seen the beast to relate their stories, Hashim said.

"Our main aim is to identify the information source, whether it is credible or not," he said. *AFP*



A MUSLIM pilgrim waits outside a hospital in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, Jan. 7. For many Muslims, the hajj—one of Islam's five pillars—signals their spiritual rebirth and the burial of past transgressions. AP

Saudi on alert as 2.5M pilgrims start Mecca trek

MINA, SAUDI ARABIA—AN ESTImated 2.5 million Muslim pilgrims began the annual trek Sunday from the holy city of Mecca to the valley of Mina with Saudi authorities on high alert to prevent another tragedy.

The pilgrimage rites, known as hajj, start three days after an aging hostel in the heart of Mecca collapsed, killing 76 people and wounding 62.

Rescue operations ended Friday and the rubble of the Luluat al-Kheir (Pearl of Grace) hostel was removed to allow a sea of pilgrims to flow from Mecca to Mina, some five km to the east, to begin tracing the journey made by Prophet Mohammed more than 1,400 years ago.

Hajj is one of the five pillars of Islam and a once-in-a-lifetime obligation for all devout, able-bodied Muslims with the means for the journey.

Men and women of all age, color and nationality dressed in white robes and sandals started marching on foot or boarded buses to Mina after dawn prayers.

They will spend the day known as "Yawm at-Tarwiya" in prayers and meditation, sleeping at night in fire-proof tents before heading further south on Monday to Mt. Arafat for the climax of hajj.

Balloons and national flags fluttered above the white tents covering the arid valley to guide pilgrims.

Some were already in Mina on Friday, camping in portable tents under bridges or on curbsides despite signs everywhere warning against loitering.

Hundreds of security force members in military fatigues fanned out in the area while Asian laborers in orange jumpsuits swept the streets.

Even some of those wounded in Thursday's building collapse will leave their hospital beds and go to Mina in specially-equipped ambulances that will then transport them to Arafat, said a senior health official. *AFP*

'Day of truth' for Sharon

JERUSALEM—DOCTORS TREATing Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon were due on Sunday to make a decision on when to try to bring him out of a medically induced coma and assess the extent of brain damage from a severe stroke.

Surgeons at Jerusalem's Hadassah hospital, where the 77-year-old has been under sedation and on a respirator since Wednesday's stroke, said there is a good chance he will survive though it is unclear how much his faculties have been impaired.

"Tomorrow is the day of truth," neurosurgeon Jose Cohen told Channel 2 television late on Saturday.

Hospital spokesperson Ron Kromer told reporters on Sunday there had been no change in Sharon's condition overnight, that it "remains critical but stable" as it has since emergency surgery was conducted on Friday to staunch bleeding in his brain.

Doctors would soon convene "to determine the course for continued treatment," and could decide whether or not to bring him out of sedation, Kromer said.

Shlomo Mor-Yosef, the hospital director had said Saturday that the latest brain scan showed evidence of a slight improvement in Sharon's condition.

"We as human beings are optimistic," he told reporters. "But I cannot say that the prime minister has come out of danger ... there are very slight signs of improvement."

Cohen said Sharon's chances of survival were "very high."

But Cohen stressed in remarks to Channel 2 television that Sharon would not be unscathed: "To say that after a severe impact like this one there would not be cognitive problems is just not acknowledging reality."

Doctors also said there was no guarantee Sharon would regain consciousness even when his sedation was lifted. Hospital officials said an additional update on his condition would be given at about noon. *Reuters*

The Lakeshore
www.lakeshore.com.ph
Mnl (02)725-1737 Pamp(045)961-6161
Mnl Fax 725-9528 (045)860-4550
email ccer07@pldtdsl.net (045)961-3837

House & Lot Package
Available at
Flexible Payment Terms
Km. 71 North Luzon Expressway, Mexico Pampanga

A World-Class Lake Resort Community

Iraq, not Afghanistan, now seen as terror center

SINGAPORE—IRAQ HAS REPLACED Afghanistan as the nerve center of global terrorism by militant groups whose ability to regenerate, despite setbacks, means that suicide bombings and other mass-casualty attacks remain a serious danger in 2006, analysts say.

Three major developments are likely to define the security landscape this year, Singapore-based terrorism analyst Rohan Gunaratna told a forum organized by the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS) last week.

"The first is that al-Qaida has morphed or transformed from a small group into a terrorist movement," he told diplomats, academics, officials and business executives.

"So today the threat is not so much from one single organization called al-Qaida but from the global jihad movement."

Gunaratna, head of terrorism research at the Singapore-based Institute of Defense and Strategic Studies, said governments must "prepare for a challenge posed by a number of disparate groups" waging campaigns on the global, regional and local levels.

"The second most significant development we have seen is that the center of gravity of international terrorism has shifted from Afghanistan to Iraq," he said. "Iraq is the new land of jihad.

"Like we saw the last generation of jihadists coming from Afghanistan, we will see the next generation of jihadists will come from Iraq."

The US-led invasion of Afghanistan in 2001 that ousted the fundamentalist Taliban regime resulted in the dismantling of al-Qaida training bases there.

Al-Qaida's leader in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, was moving to establish a global terrorist network from Iraq similar to the way Osama bin Laden had done from Afghanistan, Gunaratna said.

The third significant development was the deepening cooperation among various militant groups worldwide, Gunaratna said.

In Southeast Asia, Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) remained a long-term threat, said Jakarta-based terrorism analyst Sidney Jones, Southeast Asia project director of the think tank the International Crisis Group.

JI had split into two—the mainstream JI with an estimated membership of about 1,000, and a radical faction called the JI Thoifah Muqotilah with 30 to 50 members bent on carrying out suicide attacks—Jones told the ISEAS forum.

Mainstream JI leaders were opposed to indiscriminate bombing and their main goal was the establishment of an Islamic state in the region, Jones said. *AFP*

"GREAT BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES...
...BE OUR BUSINESS PARTNER !"

GET INTO P.E.T. BOTTLE MANUFACTURING...
TODAY'S HIGHLY PROFITABLE BUSINESS !
We Specialized in P.E.T. Bottle Customization

Bottled Water Manufacturing
BFAD Compliant
Fully Automated Bottling Plant
We Accept Toll Packing (Private Labeling)
For Reservations & More Information, Look for Mr. Eric Sales
Tel: (632) 365-5546/ 09213513767/ 09223197933/ Toll Free: 1-800-1888-2782

WORLDBRIEFS

UN commander shoots self

BACELLAR REUTERS

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti—The Brazilian commander of UN peacekeepers in Haiti was found dead on the balcony of his hotel room Saturday in an apparent suicide, authorities said, in a blow to the 9,000-strong force and efforts to restore democracy in Haiti. UN officials and Haitian police swarmed the upscale Hotel Montana where Lt. Gen. Urano Teixeira da Matta Bacellar was slumped on a tile floor against the balcony, blood staining his white T-shirt. Outwardly calm and reflective, Bacellar was charged with restoring order to this Caribbean nation in the wake of the February 2004 bloody rebellion that ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Found wearing boxer shorts and sandals, Bacellar apparently killed himself as the multinational force is under increased pressure to curb violence in the Western Hemisphere's poorest nation. The security situation has been unraveling in past weeks, with a rash of kidnappings hitting the capital. International election workers, journalists and ordinary Haitians have been among the victims. *AP*

North Korea war prisoners

SEOUL—Stalinist North Korea is demanding billions of dollars in compensation for alleged atrocities against prisoners of war and spies formerly held in South Korea, according to state media. The North filed an unprecedented formal damages complaint to the South's human rights commission through a border office on Friday, the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said. The complaint insisted Seoul compensate former North Korean long-term prisoners for their time at "nightmarish prisons" run by former authoritarian governments in South Korea. "The physical damage, except mental damage done to them, stands at $1 billion even according to a preliminary estimate made by specialists of the DPRK (North Korea) in line with international practice," it said on Saturday. "It would come to several billions of US dollars ... if the damage done to all those unconverted long-term prisoners killed in prisons is put together." South Korea repatriated 63 North Korean long-term prisoners, mostly prisoners of war and spies who refused to abjure communism, in 2000 after a reconciliation summit with North Korea. *AFP*

DeLay renounces post

DELAY AP

WASHINGTON—US Representative Tom DeLay, a close political ally of President George W. Bush who is mired in a campaign finance controversy, said Saturday he was definitively renouncing the post of Republican majority leader in the House of Representatives. "The job of majority leader is too important to be hamstrung by personal distractions," DeLay declared in front of television cameras in his home district in Texas as he confirmed his decision to abandon the post of majority leader. But the congressman, who has led the Republican majority in the House with an iron hand for three years, also said he will be running for reelection in legislative elections that will take place in November 2006. DeLay, known as "the Hammer" for maintaining party discipline, was forced to temporarily relinquish his leadership post in September, after he was charged with violations of Texas election laws and with money laundering. *AFP*

Japan snowfall kills 63

TOKYO—Troops and volunteers in Japan shoveled snow from roads and roofs on Sunday as the death toll from the country's heaviest snowfall on record rose to more than 63. Teams of troops tried to clear snow that had piled up to more than three meters in some of the the worst-hit areas of Niigata prefecture and to reopen blocked roads in Nagano prefecture. *Reuters*

TOTAL COMMUNICATIONS PABX
- Call Transfer
- Music-On-Hold
- Call Privacy
- Intercom

AS LOW AS P8,300
INFINITE SYSTEMS
Call for FREE DEMO 892-9073 to 77

FASTPhone

Cut through the hassles of bills payment.

Equitable PCI Bank FASTPhone is the faster, easier way to pay your bills. Just call 84-911 in Metro Manila.

The headaches of bills payment are things of the past. Just enroll with FASTPhone so you can skirt those long lines and altogether pay your bills from the comfort of your home, office or anywhere else where you've got a phone, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Your transactions are even secure with a FASTPhone Access Number known only to you, plus an Extra PIN (XPIN) for transfers and payments to unenrolled accounts and bills payment institutions. So enroll with FASTPhone now and say goodbye to all the hassles! It's just another way to show you that all we do is all for you, to be your Bank of Choice.

- Inquire total or available balance
- Inquire last 9 transactions
- Transfer funds among different EPCIB accounts
- Reload FASTcard or E-card XP
- Pay bills to over 90 accredited establishments

Pay your bills with ease. Call FASTPhone through 1-800-188-84911 (PLDT Toll-free) or 1-800-333-84911 (Digitel Toll-free) outside Metro Manila.

Equitable PCI BANK
Your Bank of Choice

Contact our Call Center at 84-911 (Metro Manila)
PLDT 1-800-188-84-911 and Digitel 1-800-333-84-911 (Provincial)
visit www.equitablepcib.com

ASSET ASIAN AWARDS 2004 The Asset TRIPLE A
ASSET ASIAN AWARDS 2005 The Asset TRIPLE A

MEGALINK
Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation.
Maximum Deposit Insurance for Each Depositor P250,000

ISSN 0116-2642
INQUIRER
Vol. 21 No. 32
Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net

OPINION

Text us your feedback: inquirer opi name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

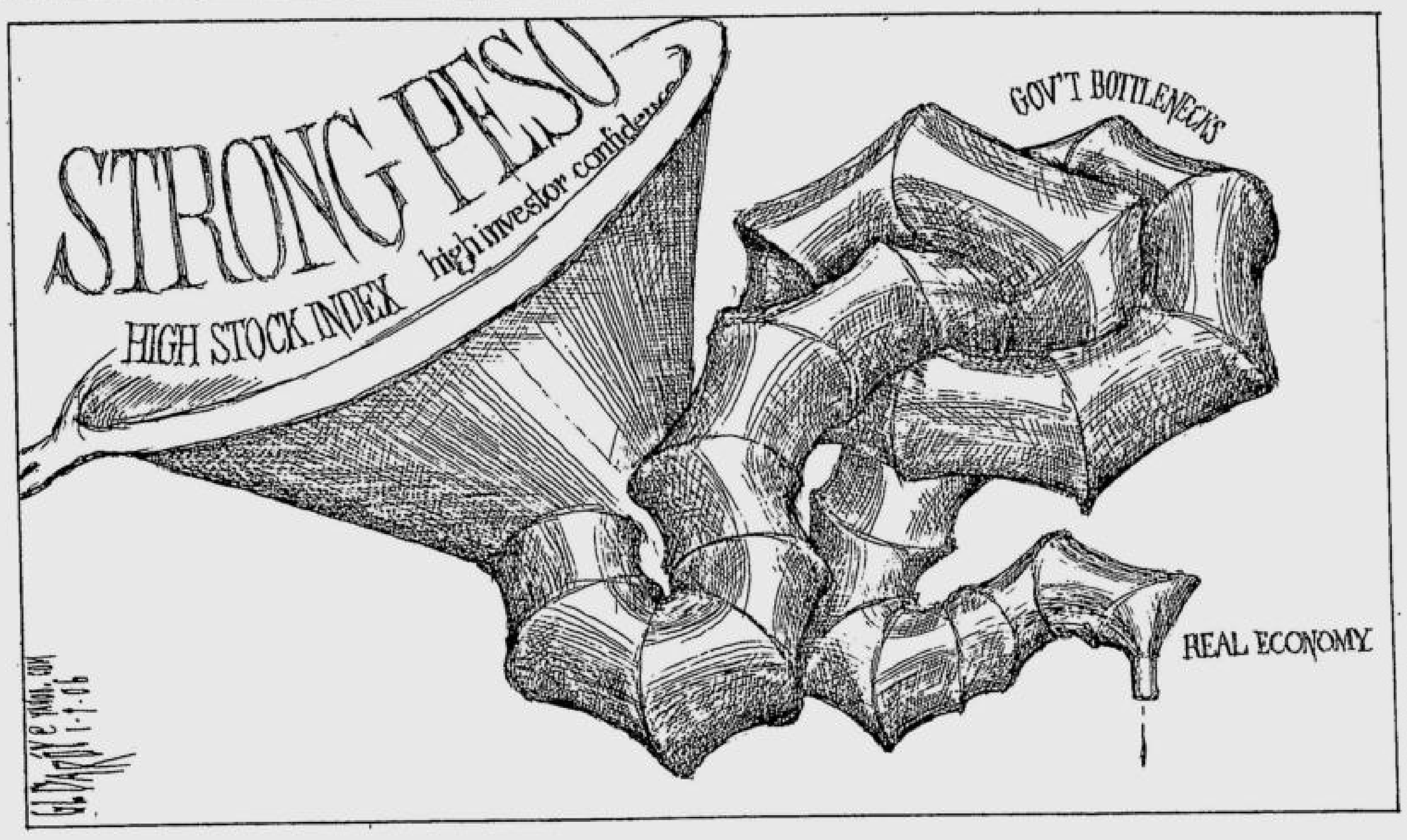
THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.
•100% soy ink•

Publisher Isagani Yambot
Editor in Chief Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc
Managing Editor Jose Ma. D. Nolasco
Associate Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday
Associate Editor for Readership Rosario A. Garcellano
News Editor Artemio T. Engracia Jr. • *Chief, News Day Desk* Nilo B. Paurom
Opinion Editor Jorge V. Aruta
National Editor Pergentino B. Bandayrel Jr.
Senior Desk Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.
Editorial Consultant Amando Doronila
Chief Photographer Ernie U. Sarmiento
Art & Design Director Lynett A. Villariba

Board Chairman Marixi R. Prieto
President Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez
Executive Vice President David O. Valdes
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing Renato R. Reinoso
VP for Advertising Felipe R. Olarte
AVP for Circulation Gloria P. Lardizabal

Readers' Advocate Lorna Kalaw Tirol
readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph • Tel. No. 897-8808, Loc. 342

All rights reserved. Except as permitted by law, no part of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means stored in a database or retrieval system without its prior written permission.



Economic lies

EDITORIAL

THE BROADSIDE SEN. MANUEL ROXAS II FIRED AT the Arroyo administration's flotilla of economic half-truths was overdue and corrective. Unchallenged, the administration policy of overemphasizing what Roxas calls "headline statistics" can, in fact, be both risky and misleading. But a closer look at the senator's own assumptions reveals his powder isn't all dry either.

He may be as populist as the policy he is attacking.

Let us be clear. The administration policy, of trumpeting macro-economic gains without regard for context or the nuances of implementation, must be denounced. As we have already pointed out before, the President's fixation with the strengthening of the peso is unhealthy—because she does not care to specify the peso's optimum level, because she speaks as though a continued appreciation of the currency is an unalloyed good, because she does not discuss the higher cost of our exports and the lowered purchasing power of our OFW families, caused (of course) by the strengthening of the peso.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, in other words, is playing politics with the economic statistics. Roxas, the scion of the immensely wealthy Araneta-Roxas clans and a Wall Street investment banker before returning to the country to enter politics, thinks the President and her economic managers are playing with fire—not because the statistics in question are a tissue of lies, but because the celebration is decidedly premature.

"The headline statistics being trumpeted by the government are good [by this, he means the stronger peso, the higher stock exchange index, the better bond rates] and yet everybody is feeling lousy and their sales reflect this lousiness," Roxas said. "The anecdotal feedback from the business community, from small traders to large corporations, [shows] that it has been a joyless Christmas, a joyless economy."

Why? Because the "real" effects of the headline statistics still have to be felt. "It's like we are looking at the sky and see a good alignment of stars foretelling a bountiful harvest even though the croplands have yet to be farmed," Roxas said.

"Her economic managers must guard against the folly of applying the US model to our economy. In the US, when these factors are up, they are immediately felt in the real economy because there are no bottlenecks. It's not like here where it takes a lot more work, assertiveness and engagement by government to convert these factors into real output," he explained.

So far, so clear. Roxas' bottom line is that these macroeconomic numbers need to be translated into terms that the ordinary citizen can instinctively understand. "The government must be more assertive in both its policy and approach to bring down these headline statistics into the real economy—a strong peso into lower prices of basic commodities and services; a strong stock market into more public offerings, and low bond prices to lower housing and car loans."

Now for the hard part. Like other senators who have presumed to speak on the real meaning (or the lack of it) of the economy's undeniable growth, Roxas glosses over the essential fact of our underdevelopment: It would take years of sustained high GDP rates (say, six years of 6 percent growth) before the ordinary citizen can "feel" the impact in ordinary life. To argue that the growth last year or the improvement last quarter isn't real because it hasn't been felt today is to ignore (or to be unaware of) plain economic truths. But the real populist core of the senator's position lies in his unstated assumption that everything depends on the government. "Aside from crowing about how good the peso or stocks are, the government should tell the people how it will work to fulfill them"—that is, how it intends to meet its "main task" of ensuring that the good news promised by the bracing headline statistics becomes reality.

That cannot be right. The government is not a corporation; its main task is to govern, not to run a business. It is not its main responsibility to turn headlines into bottom lines. The last time we looked, that was the responsibility of business. Lower prices of basic goods? Ask the retailers in Farmers Market. More stock offerings? Maybe the new businesses in thriving Cubao can lead the way.

ConCom inserted provision benefiting members

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY WE ARE WASTING so much attention on the draft Constitution written by the Consultative Commission (ConCom), whose members were handpicked by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

In the first place, GMA has no legal authority to create a body to write a new Constitution. So the ConCom has no legal authority to even be there. Ergo, what it wrote is just a scrap of paper; it should be thrown into the nearest wastebasket.

The only bodies authorized to write a Constitution is either Congress as a Constituent Assembly or a Constitutional Convention elected for that purpose. There are about 250 congressmen and 23 senators, all of whom think they are God's gift to the Philippines and are talented lawmakers. Do you think they will accept a draft Charter written by "amateurs"? No, they will want to write their own Constitution. It's the same thing with a Constitutional Convention. It will write its own Charter. And there will be no Constituent Assembly. The agreement of the Senate is needed to constitute it and almost all the senators don't want it.

Secondly, the parliamentary/federal system of government provided in the ConCom Charter is not the answer to our problems as the pro-Cha-cha people would make us believe. A parliamentary system is too expensive for a Third World country like us. Considering the quality—or lack of it—of our politicians, there will be frequent dissolution of Parliament, which will lead to new elections that cost a lot of money. The election of the prime minister alone is going to be very expensive—both for the taxpayers and the financial backers of the candidates for PM—as the price of each vote of the Members of Parliament (MPs) could run into the millions of pesos. Where do you think the PM candidates will get that?

Local government officials are blinded by the prospect of autonomy in a federal system. But with very few exceptions, all of the provinces will not be able to support themselves. Confronted with such a situation, the federal governments might just "squeeze" their constituents for more taxes, just to make both ends meet. You, voters, should better remember that when you vote in the plebiscite—in the remote possibility that the draft Charter reaches that stage.

The situation is different in the United States. The states there are progressive and big. California and Texas alone are about the size of Luzon and they are very rich economically. Most of the other states are also economically independent. Even so, the federal government sometimes has to help them in their rescue operations during times of emergency.

Thirdly, the Charter written by the ConCom is selfish and self-serving. Politicians like it because the parliamentary system gives them more powers. The MPs become both legislators and executive officials and choose members of the judiciary. There is no balance of powers. The party in power runs the whole government like a dictator.

In the Charter being peddled to us, the President can appoint 30 of her favorites to the Parliament. And members of the ConCom are not barred from being appointed as MPs. So you see, the ConCom members inserted in the Charter some provisions that will benefit themselves. They must have learned that trick from President Marcos himself, whose own Constitution provided that members of the Constitutional Convention who voted for the new Constitution automatically become members of the new Parliament. It is standard in any Constitution to ban members of the body that wrote it from benefiting from it. It's the same standard that bans the members of Congress from enjoying salary increases approved by them. Such benefits are applicable only after their own terms have expired. This is to prevent them from legislating benefits for themselves. But the present members of the ConCom wrote this particular provision that could benefit themselves.

The new Charter also abolished term limits and the provision against family dynasties. So you see, the ConCom members wrote the Charter for the benefit of politicians!

And the unkindest cut of all, the draft Constitution is morally and ethically bankrupt. It uses bribery to make it acceptable. It bribes all incumbent officials with a bonus of three more years in office without being elected. That is to make all public officials—the senators, congressmen, governors, mayors, board members and councilors—campaign for the ratification of the ConCom's Constitution. It would benefit them. That is why local government officials are shamelessly pushing the Cha-cha. If the Senate does not agree to a Constitutional Assembly, they plan to use the "People's Initiative" provided in the Constitution, even if there is yet no law to implement it.

And as an added bonus to the senators—who are overwhelmingly against a parliamentary system—there is a provision that automatically makes them MPs. Such shameless and callous bribery!

Finally, the draft Charter seeks to deprive the people of the right to choose their chief executive. It will be the MPs, not the people, who will elect the prime minister, whose office is the equivalent to that of our President today. All that the people will do is to elect the MPs to represent their districts. They will become "nobodies" in the selection of their prime minister. That's something that will be left solely to the politicians.

In the remote possibility that a plebiscite is held to ratify the new Constitution, you know what you should do: Vote "No"! And convince others to do the same.

Explaining a few things

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

PABLO NERUDA HAS A POEM TITLED "I'M Explaining a Few Things." It goes in part:

"And one morning the bonfires/ leapt out of the earth/ devouring human beings/ and from then on fire,/ gunpowder from then on,/ and from then on blood…./

"Treacherous generals:/ see my dead house,/ look at broken Spain:/ from every house burning metal flows/ instead of flowers/ from every socket of Spain/ Spain emerges/ and from every dead child a rifle with eyes/ and from every crime bullets are born/which will one day find/ the bull's eye of your hearts.

"And you will ask: why doesn't his poetry/ speak of dreams and leaves/ and the great volcanoes of his native land.

"Come and see the blood in the streets./ Come and see/ the blood in the streets./ Come and see the blood/ in the streets!"

The playwright Harold Pinter quoted this poem in his speech last month in accepting the Nobel Prize for literature. In his speech Pinter ferociously indicted the United States for crimes against humanity, which have been reduced to invisibility by the narcotic effects of language. "It's a scintillating stratagem. Language is actually employed to keep thought at bay. The words 'the American people' (uttered by American officials) provide a truly voluptuous cushion of reassurance. You don't need to think. Just lie back on the cushion. The cushion may be suffocating your intelligence and your critical faculties but it's very comfortable."

I will not dwell on that speech. I will merely urge the reader to look it up in the Internet. It has some luminous portions on the concept of truth and a writer's responsibility toward it.

But I remembered Neruda's poem in the light of some of my own readers telling me they've been missing the "lighter" and "more inspiring" stuff I used to write about, and asking when I would write about them again. What can I say? The first thing I think about in response to this are the words of Ecclesiastes, which say, "To everything, there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven."

Then follows a recitation of the various things there is time for: a time to sow, a time to reap, a time to grieve, a time to rejoice, a time to live, a time to die, etc. Well, there is a time to listen to poets talk about love and a time to hear them explain a few things. There is a time for columnists to speak of dreams and leaves and the volcanoes of their land, and there is a time for them to see the blood in the streets.

The blood in our streets is there. That might not be the very literal blood shed by a very literal war, but it is copious blood as well, shed by the war being waged against everything we hold dear. Our values, our patrimony, our very being as a nation. These are difficult times, these are troubled times. These are times of murder and mayhem, of the strangling of the sovereign will of the voters, of the stifling of angry voices, of the voiding of all that is decent and fair. These are times of cynicism and despair, of a growing indifference to injustice, of a rising capacity to tolerate abuse, of an expanding ability to factor in the worst in us. What do you do in the face of this, believing that language can be employed either as a weapon of self-defense or as a scintillating stratagem to keep thought at bay?

I myself have always put it this way: More often than not, you do not choose your topics, your topics choose you. Who wants to write about pain and suffering when you can write about sunsets and sails unfurling in the wind? Yet you write about pain and suffering because they are there. Because you are a witness to them. Because not all the sails and sunsets will make them go away.

Inspiring is a curious word. Uplifting is a strange word. Among Zen Buddhists, the truly inspiring and uplifting flower is not the rose, it is the water lily. What makes the water lily inspiring and uplifting is not its superior aesthetic attributes, it is the fact that it thrusts out in all splendor from the mud and the fetid water that surrounds it. It is the sheer drama of its struggle, pushing out from the rot that defines its stark beauty.

So it is in life. Years ago, a group of OFWs in Singapore complained that "Probe," which was airing intermittently in that country, was giving Filipinos a bad name because it dwelt on such topics as pedophilia, the mountain of garbage in Payatas, corruption in government. The group demanded that the program give a more "positive face" to the country. They missed the point completely. I thought the program, notwithstanding its predilections, did the country proud. It showed at least that there were still Filipinos who cared deeply about their country they wanted something done about its problems. It showed at least that the country continued to have a free press, which was something that could not be said about the OFWs' place of exile. It showed at least that there were Filipino journalists who were still serious about their work and had not succumbed to doing PR. Surely that was inspiring? Surely that was uplifting?

What is inspiring is not peace and prosperity, it is the struggle of a people to attain them. What is uplifting is not the grand vistas of nature, it is the human spirit soaring above them. You are vexed by the sounds of discord and remonstrations issuing from the mouth of angry men? You should thank God there are still enough of them that care deeply about the country, that have not given up on it and believe something can still be done about it. Like I said, inspiring and uplifting are curious words, they are strange words.

Why do I write about the things I do today? Come and see the blood in the streets. Come and see the blood in the streets. Come and see the blood in the streets.

Justice Cecilia Muñoz-Palma

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

THE DEATH OF FORMER JUSTICE CECILIA Muñoz-Palma marks another step in the gradual passing away of the major characters instrumental in the restoration of democracy. But even as we grieve her loss, we also rejoice in that God gave the nation a public servant who, in the words of Scripture, was a *mulier fortis*, a valiant woman.

As the first woman justice of the Philippine Supreme Court, she distinguished herself not only by her command of the intricacies of the law but more specially by her devotion to the majesty of the law and her heroic defense of constitutional rights even to the point of defying the reigning President. She capped her political career with her election as president of the 1986 Constitutional Commission which drafted the current Constitution whose strongest legacy is its Bill of Rights.

So much has already been said and written about her courage, her brilliance and her integrity. Nevertheless, I would like to offer my tribute to her by recalling two difficult moments in her life. These were moments, perhaps, not well known to many, but which she shared with me as she struggled through them.

The first happened before she assumed her position as Supreme Court justice. One morning, she came to my office in the Ateneo Law School in Padre Faura, distraught and in tears about a communication she had just received. She was then an associate justice of the Court of Appeals and she had just been informed of her forthcoming appointment to the Supreme Court. But there was a condition—the appointment was forthcoming on condition of "absolute loyalty." We talked about the implications of that condition. In the end, the conclusion she finally reached was that the condition of "absolute loyalty" was invalid and that, therefore, she could and should accept the appointment as a call to perform a mission. She saw it as a vocation within a vocation. We know very well how nobly and how courageously she performed that mission.

A second trying moment for her came in early September of 1974, on the eve of the Supreme Court decision on the habeas corpus petition of Jose W. Diokno. She had produced a draft of a dissenting opinion which, in the judgment of some of her colleagues, could destroy the image of the President in the international scene. She was even grilled—"roasted" was the word she used—by some of her more senior colleagues during a Court session. The pressure on her to tone down her language was so strong that she felt compelled to go in hiding so she could finish her final draft. While the phones were frantically ringing in her office and in her house, she was working with a borrowed typewriter in the house of her son Tadeo in Marikina. After she completed her draft and after sending it to the Chief Justice, she stayed for a while with the Benedictine Sisters of St. Scholastica while she waited for the release of the decision. We know, however, that before the decision could be released, Diokno himself was released.

It is not difficult to imagine that the leakage of her dissent had an influence on the sudden release of Diokno. Even Justice Claudio Teehankee said to her, "Celing, I salute you; I do not know how our decision leaked." Justice Enrique Fernando came to her saying, "Celing, you are the heroine of the hour." Justice Calixto Zaldivar for his part said, "What shall we do now with our dissenting opinion?" Justice Zaldivar had joined in the dissenting opinion with a handwritten concurrence.

The last paragraph of her original dissenting opinion is not what appears in the published Supreme Court Reports. I say "original" because she made some modifications after Diokno was released. But this is how she originally concluded:

"In closing, I am bothered by the thought that some of my Colleagues may attribute my approach to Diokno's petition to my being a woman, and I may even be accused of allowing my emotions to overpower my reason. If there is such an assumption I would say that it is incorrect. However, if it is indeed true that my being a woman led me to take this stand on Diokno's petition, then I am happy and proud that I was born a woman."

Finally, we might ask, from where did she get such womanly courage? She herself has supplied the answer. For several years she was a fixture in the choir loft of the Ateneo Padre Faura St. Thomas More Chapel, where she liked to accompany the choir in the organ. I was the chaplain then, and I used to refer to her as my bishop. It was on the occasion of her grappling with the Diokno petition that she sent me a note which revealed the not so secret source of her courage. She said in part: "I thought of writing to you, you being the chaplain of St. Thomas More Chapel where I spent much of my time seeking from Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament guidance, moral strength and courage to make the right decision in the habeas corpus cases more particularly that of petitioner Jose W. Diokno . . ." The note came with a copy of her original dissent with the concurrence of Justice Zaldivar, together with a manuscript copy of her narration of the events of that fateful September. She requested me to dispose of the manuscript according to my best judgment at an appropriate time. This has since been published together with her other writings in her book "The Mirror of My Soul."

Justice Palma stood tall with her heroic dissent in the Diokno case. She followed that with other valiant dissenting opinions. She has gone to claim her well-deserved reward.

Is the Church listening?

COMMENTARY

Asuncion David Maramba

ARCHBISHOP FERNANDO CAPALLA'S PROPOSAL for a Bishops-Congressmen's Forum is intriguing but not because of the prospect of the bishops and the congressmen getting together. The latter fails to excite. I agree with Rep. Edcel Lagman: Congressmen, deep in even their suppressed consciences, know what is right and wrong. Many of them just persist in being corrupt. Their pork barrel is a sure sign that they're recidivist and incorrigible. What's the use?

Besides, I suspect that if the bishops want the forum, it's for the "moral" issues such as population management, family planning, divorce, the gay issue, etc. But so vital are these issues that they should be discussed where they happen—with the people. That's why I agree with Rina J. David's suggestion for a Bishops-Faithful Forum instead.

Rina mentions a word which to me is the most intriguing of all. The word is a refrain dropped in conversations and in articles here and abroad. It's the repeated plea to the institutional Church to "listen" to the faithful. What's new, some say. Hasn't the Church always been listening? Good question.

Long ago parents didn't know how to listen. They disciplined, downwards. Teachers didn't know how to listen. They taught, downwards. Now, the other half of education and caring is listening, like peers. You'd be surprised what children and students can contribute. If I were a teacher now, I'd reserve time for questions, no holds barred. What I could have learned!

How good is the Church at listening and how free are the faithful to ask? Like parents and teachers, the Church may have to learn how to listen—seriously, deeply, openly and generously. It doesn't come naturally, especially for an institution that for centuries has been used to tell people what to obey, what to avoid and what to believe, overdoing a one-way teaching ministry. In Apologetics class, our beloved chaplain and teacher used to wave off any hand raised—with "no, no questions." Up till now, how many priests, religious and laypersons lower their voices with safety clauses like, "I can't say this in public, but ...."?

How persistent and impassioned is the plea to the Church to listen? Listen. "Mission" includes a "willingness to listen." A Church that cannot openly discuss issues is a Church retreating into "an intellectual ghetto." The "Church structure offers few settings for honest talk."

"Speak up, but to whom and how?"

Pope "Benedict will have to show a willingness to engage modern thinkers and concerns rather than denouncing them ... the Church ... must be willing to listen ...."

"The Pope should be willing to listen and engage the lay leadership ..." must have "the ability to listen" as leader and servant. "Hear the cries of the whole Church ...."

"The Pope should first listen to the excluded ones ... for it is there that God's call to the entire Church is first made audible."

"... invite to the Vatican the 100 Catholics who were once considered the Church's major critics ... like Hans Kung, Charles Curran, Leonardo Boff and Andrew Greeley."

"Consult all the faithful about what they think God is up to in the Church and in the world." Something can indeed be said about what the faithful think about. It's called *sensus fidelium*, "the sense of faith that the people of God share among themselves," a criteria, by the way, in the formulation of doctrine.

In the Church's highly centralized set-up, as the Pope goes, so goes the Church.

So, how much or how little does our Church know us? "My parents don't know me." *Hindi ako kilala* are painful words played out to parents who do not listen. Can "parents" and "Church" be interchanged?

Listen then to the "excluded" and the "outsider": the divorced, separated, living in; gays and lesbians; the poor (trying very hard here but still confounded); women (their genius still held at bay); marginalized and silenced priests, former seminarians and married priests (what a great waste considering their training, number, willingness to serve and the steady retreat of vocations). Does the Church know only the ideal "order of society" and not enough of its deep disorders, the tectonic shifts under our feet?

Listen to the "engaged and knowledgeable laity" that could be "the Church's strong suit." Listen to the critics of the Church who have not surrendered their brains and would rather be "independent-minded churchgoers" rather than mere "functionaries of apparatuses" (a phrase used by the Pope himself), a type he says the Church needs little of. Has the Church "historically taken a dim view of the questioning intellect, and especially of the public expression of such questions"?

Listen to common exchanges on family life. Why, in every other Catholic family, is there a broken marriage, a live-in, young women on pills (face it), men on condoms, a born-again, a free thinker, a fallen-away Catholic, young marrieds "quietly seceded from the Vatican's control in sexual issues"? All of them are not subject for exclusion or derision but for discussion and/or acceptance. Listen. The pews have a lot to say.

Asuncion David Maramba is a retired professor, book editor and occasional journalist. Comments marda@info.com.ph or marda_ph@yahoo.com; fax 8210659.

Parting wisdom

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

CECILIA MUÑOZ-PALMA traveled long and far from the days when, as a student leader opposing the Hare-Hawes-Cutting Act, she was booed and jeered at an assembly in the Metropolitan Theater. That incident earned the audience a tongue-lashing from then Senate President Manuel Quezon, who thundered against the lack of gallantry of the students.

The country, too, has traveled long and far from that day in 1933, when a national leader had to silence students because they lacked the courtesy to listen to a woman delivering a speech.

That path of political and gender emancipation Justice Palma traveled—she never hesitated to take the road less traveled if conscience and learning required it. Much has been written of her career as a lawyer and jurist; not enough has been written of her role as a civic and political conscience of the nation. She, who loved the law, loved it to the extent that she refused to compromise it with dictators or a people intoxicated with their regained freedom. In the last decade of her life, she established what is perhaps her most lasting legacy of all.

In 2001, as the administration of Joseph Estrada crumbled, she spoke up for the rule of law, insisting that the impeachment trial of Mr. Estrada had to proceed. She opposed the Supreme Court's decision to fill up the emerging power vacuum by replacing the President: "The 1987 Constitution suffered. This happened when the ongoing impeachment trial of President Estrada was unceremoniously disrupted and discontinued and the issues on hand were brought to the parliament of the streets. The rule of law was set aside and the rule of force prevailed."

In June of last year, Justice Palma issued another statement: "I believe we are going through, for the second time in this decade, a crucial test of the strength of our will to be guided by the rule of law as envisioned in the 1987 Constitution... There is only one avenue of action and that is the process of impeachment as provided for in the 1987 Constitution... Whether the supposed offense, the alleged acts constitute [an] impeachable offense or whether it can stand on the so-called hearsay evidence, are matters which need to be looked into by the proper constitutional body and not by the personal views of leaders in government and the private sector... Let us grab the bull by its horns rather than be dragged into a limbo of suspicions, disbelief, social discontent, mistrust, even violence and instability... We, as citizens living under the Rule of Law and enjoying the benefits of republicanism, are bound to respect, support it, notwithstanding our own personal views."

Her two unpopular positions mark the final chapter in a long, distinguished, moral and intellectual life, and must serve to give us pause as we mark, this year, the fifth anniversary of Edsa II and Edsa III, the 20th anniversary of Edsa I, and the 19th—and, possibly, last—anniversary of the Constitution she signed as president of the Constitutional Commission. In her public statements, Justice Palma was careful to distinguish personalities from issues; she was not, in any way, seen as a rabid partisan or critic of the two presidents involved (and, in fact, had been treated ungallantly by former President Estrada and was paid little attention by President Macapagal-Arroyo); she was no fawning toady of presidents.

Yet she dared ask: can we permit the constitutional order to give way to the public's passions, as expressed in the streets? Her principal point was that a mature democracy operating under the rule of law—however much the expression was being used, and abused, by political partisans at the time—cannot afford to compromise either constitution or legal procedure, if our society is to continue calling itself constitutional and democratic. The accusations, she pointed out, may be valid, and indeed, public feelings may be justified, but a responsible people are duty-bound to channel their emotions toward a resolution within the confines of the social contract.

Her views were more in keeping with the scathing opinions of foreign observers; and like many Filipinos, in the wake of Edsa II, I found them puzzling. By the beginning of the present political crisis, realizing in hindsight that the resolution of the Estrada crisis caused more problems than it solved, I was able to appreciate the wisdom behind her opinions more. Today, I think that in the twilight of her life, she managed to shine a light that, like any light, exposes the unsavory as much as it shows a path through the darkness.

What did she expose as unsavory? Our confusing an accident of history—the manner in which Ferdinand Marcos finally fell out of power in 1986—with a permanent strategy for democratic change. The removal of Marcos, a dictator, cannot be the means to remove presidents unless we are prepared to dismantle the entire system. In other words, there is no such thing as People Power that is constitutional. In a sense, those who advised President Aquino to scrap the 1973 Constitution knew this. (Justice Palma opposed the decision at the time.) And yet the light that shines forth from Justice Palma's statements is encouraging: the only way forward, to accomplish change, whether the immediate desire to replace a discredited incumbent, or to institute structural reforms, is within the parameters of the Constitution. There is no substitute for the hard work, the painful and painstaking methods under our basic law, for resolving all things.

As the nation pays its final farewell to Justice Palma, it is time to adopt as our own the defining principle of her life: There are no quick fixes; there is no substitute for following the difficult, because the people signed on to strict, contractual obligations when they ratified the 1987 Charter.

Christmas Eve 2005

COMMENTARY

Junefe Gilig Payot
Institute on Church and Social Issues

AT THE LAST MINUTE, I CALLED MY MOTHER TO TELL HER that I won't be going home for Christmas. I was not able to get any ticket and was too tired to take my chances at the airport or at the pier. Always understanding, she said that it was OK. But she made me promise not to go out on Christmas Eve, to avoid any harm.

Luckily, a good friend also happened to be staying in Manila for Christmas. Determined to make our Christmas Eve away from our families a blast, I asked for his suggestion. His reply was unexpected: Let us give food to the street dwellers!

It was enough to make anyone who had been thinking along the lines of going on a food and drinking binge cry in disbelief and disappointment. God knows I was not going to have the same luxury when work and law classes resumed.

Babi is a former seminarian who would have made a great priest had he not left the seminary, so his suggestion should not have come as a surprise. But it's really an unusual way of spending Christmas Eve, to put it mildly. Besides, I had promised my mother that I'd stay away from harm. Thus it was with some reluctance that I agreed to join him because he seemed sure of what he wanted to do.

We bought nine packs of fried-chicken meals from the nearest fast-food outlet. At the counter, there was a boy, one of those we often see along Katipunan, "guiding" drivers for a fee as they park their cars. He wanted to buy a sundae, but he was being ignored by the cashiers. I had to tell them to attend to him.

That to me was illustrative of the way our society deals with the poor, which is to not deal with them. Just look at the tens of thousands of families displaced by overpriced government infrastructure projects. The affected poor families have no say on their relocation at all. Their lives are in the hands of others who hardly care.

At 11:30 p.m., we embarked on our mini-relief effort along the dim Aurora Avenue. We had not even reached Aurora when we saw a man eating from an old Tortillos chips foil pack near the flyover going to Eastwood. Babi gave him one pack.

Along Aurora, the first persons we gave food to were two men sleeping in their pushcarts. The sound of our steps must have awakened them and, from the frightened looks on their faces, they must have expected some malefactors, or worse MMDA people. We gave them two packs and wished them a Merry Christmas.

Not too far from the two men was an old man scavenging for scraps. We gave him one pack and our Christmas greetings. Only then did we realize that it was past 12, and we greeted each other a Merry Christmas with some nervous laughter over our adventure.

The next person we found was sleeping in a fetal position on the steps of a hardware store near the Anonas LRT station, unmindful of the special night. We agreed not to wake him up and left a box beside him. Later we thought that we should have wakened him up because he might have slept on an empty stomach.

At the overpass that squares the Edsa-Aurora intersection, we had to wade through a sea of prostituted women. I thought my head would fall from too much vigorous shaking to make them understand that we were not there for that kind of adventure.

The world's oldest profession knows no holiday! Perhaps, it's because hunger and poverty, the world's oldest scourge that drive most of them to this kind of work, know no holiday either.

Finally, we reached the area of Cubao where the bus stations are. There, we saw one of the most unexpectedly joyous scenes: three young ladies, like the three magi, distributing food to streets dwellers. Babi and I were not the weirdest people in the planet, after all!

Then a more serious thought came to me: If Jesus were to be born today, it would most likely be either in Payatas, the relocation sites or the dark alleys of Cubao under the poorest conditions just like the first Christmas, telling us from the very beginning that he came not to amass wealth or power but to serve. Very much unlike our country's leaders, most of whom are avowed Christians who regularly credit their closeness to God for their political survival as if they knew how God's mind works. In fact, in this country, especially in the more recent past, it has always been a year of the dog (my apologies to the dogs).

Seeing that the three young ladies were taking care of the Cubao area, we hopped into a bus going to Philcoa. At the overpass, we saw an old woman with three little boys sleeping behind her on the floor. We gave her the four packs left.

It was past 1 in the morning when we got home.

I am grateful for that experience even though our attempt was amateurish and extremely small-scale. In my work, I have been taught to always think of the long term, of sustainable strategies. That, I was told, is the real developmental mind-set. Doles are always frowned upon.

While that may be right, we all also have this very natural human desire to do something more direct for those who need help, for those who do not have the privilege of stopping to take stock of their lives at yearend holidays because each second is a matter of life and death for them. One cannot just turn a blind eye by saying that she is already doing her part in the greater scheme of things by doing her best in her chosen profession.

Let us hope that in the new year, there will be less poverty, more shelter for the homeless, social and economic recovery for the thousands who have been displaced by government projects and calamities, and food on the table for all.

As for the political dogs, I hope the people will finally tame them.

THEY SAID

Poor competition

"Cha-cha cannot compete with Christmas."

—Sen. Ralph Recto, on the chances that the Senate would take up the resolution calling for Charter change

No rest for Bonifacio

"As long as the masses have no voice in the national discourse, and while social leadership remains the monopoly of the elite, perhaps Bonifacio's soul may never rest."

—Randy David, speaking at the 142nd birth anniversary of the Great Plebeian Andres Bonifacio

The INQUIRER is a member of the
PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

GMA shot down strongest argument for Cha-cha

THE STRONGEST ARGUMENT AGAINST Charter change comes from Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo herself. By milking dry the propaganda value of the peso's late surge versus the US dollar, GMA has debunked the premises she herself laid out in her July 2004 State of the Nation Address (Sona) in pushing for Cha-cha. In that address, she drew a picture of two Philippines—one, an economy poised for takeoff; the other, a degenerated political system hindering such takeoff. Until today, we remain under the same system, but she proudly proclaims "the runway is clear and the takeoff is at hand."

In the context of that Sona, the statement is, at best, contradictory and, at its worst, a bagful of lies. If the "runway is (now) clear," this can only mean that the obstacle has been removed. Therefore, Cha-cha has lost its usefulness.

To our politicos' credit, they have let the cat out of the bag. Before, they argued that Cha-cha was motivated by economics. Today, has any one of them taken time to discuss the purported economic benefits to be gained by the nation because of the amendments? I hardly have heard a peep from them. Much of the debate on Cha-cha revolves around their political future.

The Consultative Commission (ConCom) has baited the incumbents with the lure of automatic membership in the new unicameral legislature. What it actually proposes is for the congressmen to appoint themselves to an office they have created.

I do not think it proper for people to be "legislated" into office. Even the members of the 1978 Interim Batasang Pambansa were elected. (What could be worse than an election held under a dictatorship? Answer: a No-el in a democracy.) In 1986, the members of the Cory Aquino-appointed Constitutional Commission were barred from seeking an elective post in the election immediately succeeding the ratification of the Charter they framed—the same document this administration is impatient to revise.

Our bigger problem lies not in the institutions or the systems in place but the personalities who control them. More than the economic, social and political crises that engulf us is the crisis within each of us—characterized by our misplaced values and distorted priorities. This crisis is best personified by no less than the President herself. Indeed, we do get the government we deserve.

In pushing for reconciliation, the people are admonished to leave the past behind. The logic behind this call is much too flawed. We are in a sorry state precisely because we have forgotten our past. The ghosts of the past will only haunt us more as we strive to strike it off our collective memory.

Reconciliation does not require a silent, subservient opposition. It is founded not on apologies but on mutual respect, to agree to disagree and to treat critics with much more civility than we do our closest allies. If you think this is an impossible task, then any talk about reconciliation would be futile.

—JUSTINO CALAYCAY JR.,
jbc090890@yahoo.com.ph

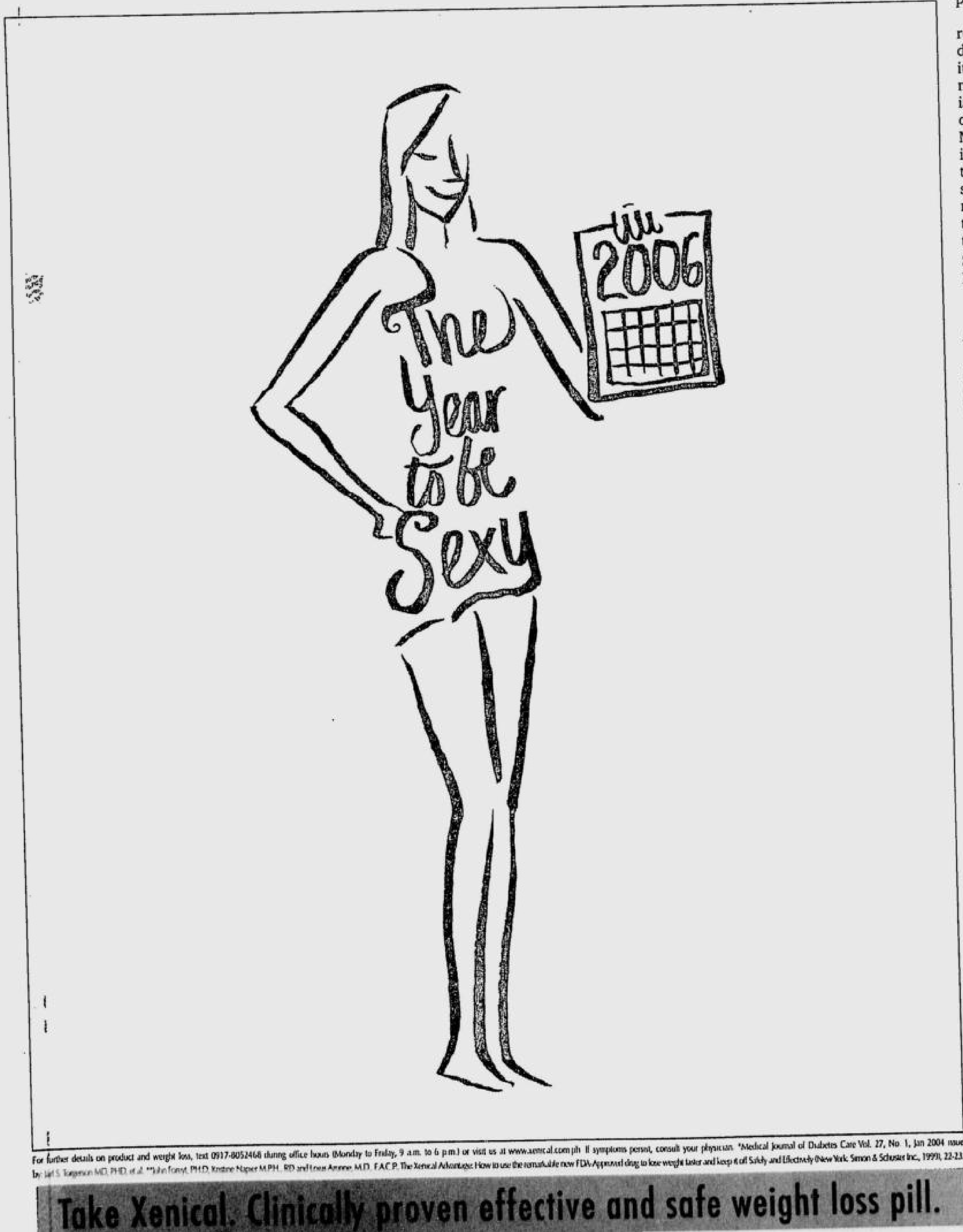
We make brands fly
...literally!
PACIFIC AIRMEDIA
Customized Airships
Lighted Balloons
Inflatable Signages

Pacific Airmedia's airships and inflatables are the most innovative and cost-effective way to generate recall and hype for your brand–at any event, in any venue! Our remote-controlled and stationary systems can be used indoors or outdoors, and can even be lighted from the inside for night time visibility. Be assured of safety and professionalism from Asia's most experienced airship operator. Call today to avail of our worry-free lease packages!

Cutting-edge. Worry-free. Professional.

Call 7168604 to 05
www.pacificairmedia.com

PACIFIC AIRMEDIA
AIRSHIPS AND INFLATABLES


2006
The Year to be Sexy

For further details on product and weight loss, text 0917-8052468 during office hours (Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.) or visit us at www.xenical.com.ph If symptoms persist, consult your physician. *Medical Journal of Diabetes Care Vol. 27, No. 1, Jan 2004 issue by: Jarl S. Torgerson MD, PHD, et al. **John Foreyt, PH.D, Kristine Napier M.PH., RD and Louis Aronne, M.D. F.A.C.P. The Xenical Advantage: How to use the remarkable new FDA-Approved drug to lose weight faster and keep it off Safely and Effectively (New York: Simon & Schuster Inc., 1999), 22-23.

Take Xenical. Clinically proven effective and safe weight loss pill.

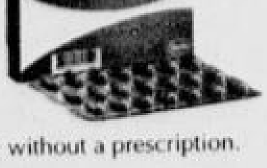
How does Xenical work? Xenical is clinically proven* to help eliminate fat by preventing some of the fat in your food from being absorbed by the body.

How do I take Xenical? Take one capsule of Xenical with each of the 3 main meals per day. Complement this regimen by eating right (avoid fatty and high-calorie food).

Should I take Xenical even if I'm on a diet? Clinical studies show that when taken with a low-calorie diet, Xenical increases weight loss by 51%.**

Who can take Xenical? Xenical can be taken by individuals 12 years old and above.

Orlistat
Xenical®
to a new you



Now available without a prescription.

Responsive public service

I'M CURRENTLY HOLDING A POsition in a student government and it has become my habit to ask students about what they think and need so we could improve the condition around us, as students, or would know how to do so. I do this by scheduling regular meetings and consultations with them.

Wouldn't it be nice and appropriate for our lawmakers to hold such meetings with the different sectors in their respective districts, especially with students (considering that it is them who would later on inherit and lead the country)? This way the lawmakers would know what their constituents need and feel. Thus, the lawmakers would also know what to do, so that they can genuinely serve their people. After all, were they not voted precisely to serve the people?

I mean, this way, the people can measure the lawmakers' performance on the basis of what had been asked by them during the meetings and consultations.

—BRIAN CHRISTOPHER
M. NOCON, RMT,
braix@msn.com

Elitist design in proposed Constitution

THE TIMING OF THE INQUIRER Dec. 20, 2005 editorial titled "Bonifacio and Estrada," which came out—whether by coincidence or by design—a few days after the Constitutional Consultative Commission made public its recommendations, was providential or masterful.

One recommendation would ban "dropouts" from political office. Behind the obviously inane but seemingly innocuous provision lurks the vested interest of the elite ("*trapos*" from both the opposition and administration; "civil society," and "leaders" of business and the academe).

The editorial cited a historian's research which noted the existence of internal forces seeking to perpetuate itself as the privileged in our society even during our struggles against external forces—then (Bonifacio) and recently (Estrada).

The campaign to amend the 1986 Constitution is an ill-disguised maneuver by the elite not just to preserve their leverage but even to advance their agenda at the majority's expense.

The media have a responsibility to the nation to lay bare this threat to our democracy and mobilize the silent majority to assert itself.

—ALFREDO V. ASUNCION,
93 Castrillo St.,
Barangay Ugong Norte,
Quezon City

Not media's fault that GMA is perceived to be corrupt

TONY KWOK, PRESIDENT MACApagal-Arroyo's adviser on anti-corruption, reportedly has blamed the media for the political turmoil in the country. I wonder what induced Kwok to do such a thing. It certainly was beyond his role as GMA's anti-corruption adviser. Or were his words meant only for the ears of his employer? Was Kwok pressured to make the statement?

GMA's administration has no reason to complain about the media's treatment of news. After all, it has two television stations and a nationwide radio network, which is larger than any private media organization, not to mention Malacañang's generous budget for its information office. Whenever the Arroyo administration does something that is genuinely commendable and worth reporting, these news outlets can always take the lead, assuming that the good news is not reported by the private media.

The tragedy is that GMA relies so much in image projection to cover for the shortcomings and crimes of her administration. Vast as the resources of her drumbeaters are, there is nothing they can pull out of the hat that impresses the public. To get a headache and throw up, one only has to listen to the newscasts and commentaries aired over government-controlled media.

On the other hand, to win media acclaim, GMA has only to order a serious investigation into the charges of extortion leveled by Mark Jimenez against former Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, or produce Joc-Joc Bolante so he will be made to appear in the Senate investigation on the fertilizer scam; or she can direct the Isafp to come clean on the Garci wiretappers. Unfortunately, none of these is a price she is willing to pay!

—E.P. DAKANAY JR.,
43 Baltazar St.,
Philamlife Village,
Pamplona, Las Piñas City

A red tape story in Cordillera

HERE'S A TIMELY ILLUSTRATION of red tape in the administration of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

I have been trying for the last two years to comply with the requirement of the Register of Deeds (ROD) in La Trinidad, Benguet (for the registration of the remaining 27 percent of a Cordillera lot, 73 percent of which is already owned by me, with a transfer certificate title in my name) that I first get a clearance from the Department of Agrarian Reform. I guess the idea is for me to show that no tenant-beneficiaries would be prejudiced. In other words, I have to show that the property is not covered by land reform.

For this purpose, the municipal agrarian reform officer (Maro) gave me a list of documents to submit before I could get the required ROD clearance. This included, among others, a topographic survey plan, photos of the property, ocular inspection report of the Maro and provincial agrarian reform officer (Paro), all of which must show that the property has a slope of less than 18 percent.

Is there tenancy at all in the Cordilleras? In these mountains, is there any property that has a gentler slope than 18 percent? Nevertheless, I worked on producing the documents on the list. Not satisfied with its own requirements, the DAR asked me to submit a Department of Environment and Natural Resources clearance to be issued by the community environment and natural resources office (Cenro). The purpose of this clearance is unclear.

The Cenro is supposed to give its findings to the Maro, which submits a complete folder of findings to the DAR regional office for approval. Of what, I cannot fathom.

It is obvious that the data required by the ROD has something to do with the DAR jurisdiction over the property. But there is no known tenancy relations in the Cordilleras. And it is so easy to see for any Maro and Paro, these mountains are definitely steeply sloping. Needless to say, the red tape in the Register of Deeds is simply ridiculous.

It took me several months—from mid-2003 to January 2004 to work out the tax payments on this transaction with the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the municipal office of La Trinidad. Having overcome those tax hurdles, I am now facing the obstacles put up by the DAR. I feel like an equestrian in a dressage.

Matters are made worse for people who live in Metro Manila like me, who have to submit things by mail. I worked on the tax requirements by personally making trips to La Trinidad; this cost me a lot of time and money.

—BENEDICTO G. ARCINAS,
ben_arcinas@yahoo.com

Voices in the wilderness

I PITY THE INQUIRER COLUMnists. Despite all the incessant fire, fury and hatred they have directed at President Macapagal-Arroyo these past months (years?), she's still standing.

Their sarcastic and contemptuous writings mean nothing to a public so fed up with destructive politics that retards this country's efforts to move forward. They are howling voices in the empty wilderness and are no different from wolves that bay at the moon. Their columns are a prefect waste of good newsprint that should have been devoted to more advertisements. It must be frustrating for these columnists to know that their words have no takers.

I suggest that the INQUIRER editors consider converting them to entertainment writers where they might just find a more sympathetic audience than us taxpayers who just want to move on away from all the cacophony of politics.

—ALDO ARZA,
Pasig City,
almabien@yahoo.com

MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2006
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
A15

NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074)443-9255
Fax No. (074)443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU
23 Aurora St., Old Albay District
Legazpi City
Tel. No. (052) 820-8402
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

Across the NATION
E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph
Text us your feedback: inquirer atn name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: inq_cebu@inquirer.com.ph

MINDANAO BUREAU
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. No. (082)244-1770 to 71
Fax No. (082)244-1771
E-mail: inq_davao@inquirer.com.ph

'Jueteng' back in Luzon, says top PNP exec

By Luige A. del Puerto, *in Manila*
Tonette Orejas, *PDI Central Luzon Desk*
and Marlon Ramos, *PDI S. Luzon Bureau*

A POLICE OFFICIAL YESTERDAY confirmed attempts to revive the illegal numbers game "jueteng" in Luzon, except in one region.

"In every region in Luzon, there is an attempt to revive jueteng, except in Region 1 (Ilocos). We have not received reports on jueteng in this region," said the official, who refused to be named because of the sensitivity of his position.

The source said divulging his identity could make him the target of enmity not only of members of the jueteng syndicate but also his fellow officers.

"I'm not saying cops are behind it, but there are those who got used [to getting payoffs from the illegal numbers game]," he said.

The source, however, clarified that the moves to revive jueteng are not initiated by big-time financiers and operators; only bet collectors are testing the waters.

These jueteng operations are small-time, and the draws done in far-flung villages, he said.

In some cases, the collectors use the legal number game EZ2, which is sanctioned by the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., as cover, according to the official.

Whenever the police's anti-illegal gambling task force is in town, collectors remit their bets to the EZ2 center. When it is not, they collect bets for jueteng draws.

"It's a game of cat and mouse," the source said.

The source hinted of leaks in the local police. In many instances when the national police coordinated raids with the local police, the police end up with nothing, he said.

Dry run

In Central Luzon, financiers, maintainers and operators of jueteng last week launched simultaneous dry-run operations of the illegal numbers game in Central Luzon seven months after its stoppage, INQUIRER sources in the police said.

"The game has been resumed in the boundaries," a police official said, referring to the provincial borders shared by Bataan, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Tarlac and Zambales.

The dry-run operations, the source said, were in preparation for jueteng's resumption on a full-scale.

The police source said the policy was to hold the draw at the boundaries and extend the collection of bets to the inner towns and cities.

Central Luzon police director Chief Supt. Alejandro Lapinid, however, said that as of Sunday, the region remained "negative" of jueteng, citing reports of his local commanders.

"I will not hesitate to take drastic action against my men if I confirm that jueteng has indeed returned," he said.

Lapinid sacked the police chiefs of Magalang and Guagua in Pampanga in November and December last year after raids by regional police teams confirmed "guerrilla" jueteng operations there.

At least two residents in Concepcion, Tarlac, sent text messages to the INQUIRER on Sunday to report that collectors had been making the rounds of neighborhoods there and in nearby Magalang, Pampanga to collect bets.

Another source in Tarlac said the game was operating in Capas town.

But Tarlac police chief Senior Supt. Nicanor Bartolome said jueteng did not exist in his area.

Bartolome said the police were monitoring Tarlac to ensure that jueteng would be stopped.

The jueteng dry run began in Angeles City on the first week of December but the police there denied this.

"Jueteng is operated alongside EZ2," the source said, referring to the game run by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, to provide a cover.

Jueteng and EZ2 both use a pair of numbers from 1-37 and 1-38, respectively.

The source said another policy in the trial phase of jueteng was to stop it when discovered by authorities or negotiate and get the police as protectors during a crackdown.

This was because not all police officials were talked into supporting the comeback of jueteng, the source said.

The source identified suspected gambling lord Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda as the main financier of the jueteng comeback in the region.

But Pineda, according to the source, used "decoys" to avoid being detected.

Neither Pineda nor his relatives could be reached for comment on Sunday. In earlier interviews, however, Pineda's relatives and associates have denied that Pineda had returned to finance big-time jueteng operations in the region.

Laguna

In Laguna, an INQUIRER source said a mayor also has a direct command over jueteng operations in the third and fourth districts of the province.

Police officials, however, denied reports that jueteng has resurfaced in Laguna since the holiday season.

Laguna police director Senior Supt. Federico Terte said the police have stamped out jueteng activities in the province during their heightened operations four months ago.

"There is no jueteng in this province. I have also ordered my men to check reports that a man named Boy Royo runs jueteng in Laguna," Terte said in a phone interview.

Terte said they have continuously monitored the game in all towns in the province which allegedly showed Laguna is still jueteng-free.

He, however, admitted that there were reports of guerrilla jueteng operations in some areas of Laguna.

In guerrilla operations, winning number combinations are drawn outside the areas where bets were collected to elude policemen.

Calamba police chief Supt. Rolando Bustos said the city has remained jueteng-free and that some unscrupulous individuals could have been using the results of the lotto and EZ2 lotto draws, which are shown on television.

A bet collector earlier interviewed by the INQUIRER in Barangay Halang in Calamba proved that jueteng has indeed been revived last December.

"*Baka loteng yun o kaya* EZ2. I am very sure that there is no collection of jueteng bets in Calamba because there is no jueteng here," Bustos said.

A source from the Calabarzon police admitted that jueteng has found its way back in Laguna, as well as in Cavite and Batangas.

The source said a special operations unit of the Calabarzon police in Camp Vicente Lim had arrested 11 persons from a suspected jueteng den in Biñan town last December.

Last month, antijueteng czar Edward Hagedorn confirmed that "organized jueteng" was back in Quezon province and that guerrilla-type operations were back in other areas in Luzon.

Archbishop Oscar Cruz, a staunch antigambling crusader, also said jueteng operations went full blast during the holidays in Bicol, particularly in Camarines Sur and Albay.

More than 1,200 lose jobs in Bicol

LEGAZPI CITY—RETRENCHMENTS IN SOME 29 establishments in the region last year has left 1,292 people jobless in Bicol, the Department of Labor and Employment in the region said in a statement.

On the other hand, the DOLE-Bicol said that 12,906 Bicolanos found new jobs last year, including 6,514 who were locally employed and the 2,889 who signed contracts for overseas employment.

"The number of Bicolanos placed for new jobs last year is much higher than the number of retrenched employees," said DOLE-5 Assistant Regional Director Alvin Villamor.

Retrenchment in the industry sector is the highest with a total of 902 lay-offs, with 705 workers retrenched in the construction sector and 164 workers in the mining sector.

Under the services sector, the highest number of retrenchments were in the transportation, communication, and storage services with 124 workers laid off. The wholesale, retail and trade services downsized by some 115 employees.

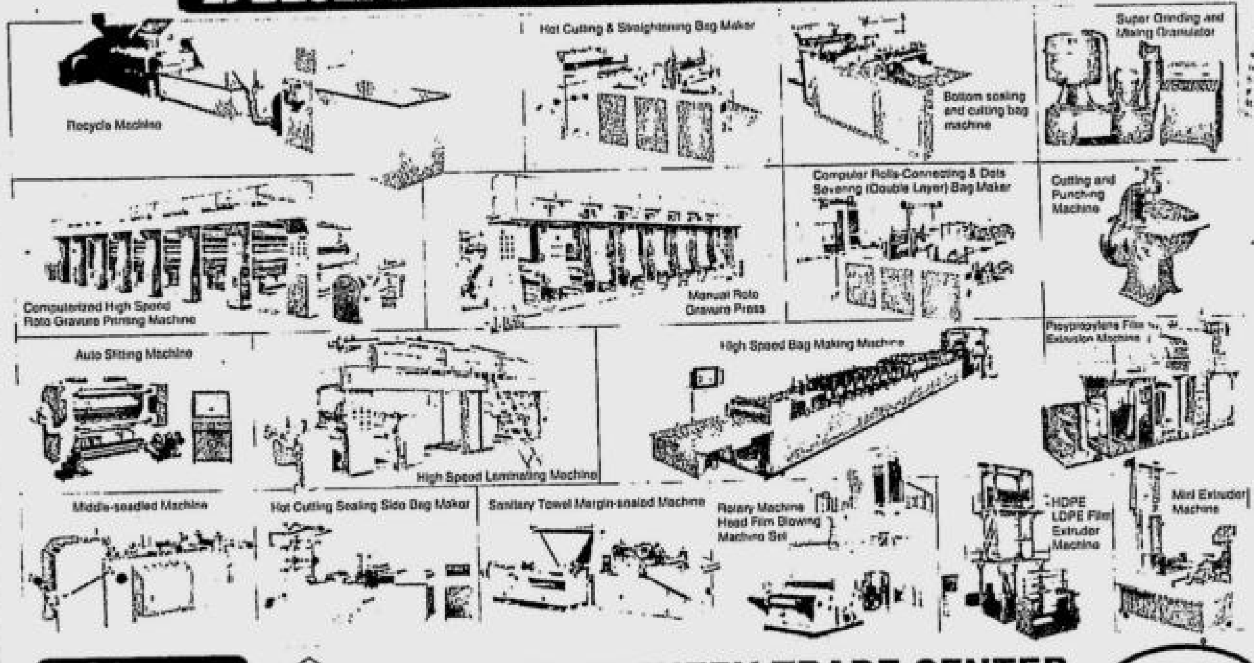
The water, gas and electricity industry recorded the least retrenchments, posting only nine, while the manufacturing sector, which was forecast to be unstable in the early days of 2005, only had 24 retrenchments, said the DOLE-5 report.

The financing, insurance, real estate and business services also had 62 retrenchments while the community, social and personal services had 86 employees terminated.

Albay posted the highest number of retrenchments, totaling 1,098, followed by Camarines Sur with 94, and Camarines Norte with 53. There were no reported retrenchments in Sorsogon and Masbate, DOLE-5 said.

Some 37 terminated employees were also recorded by DOLE but their locality had not been established since they were walk-in clients. *Leo Martin B. Ganace, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

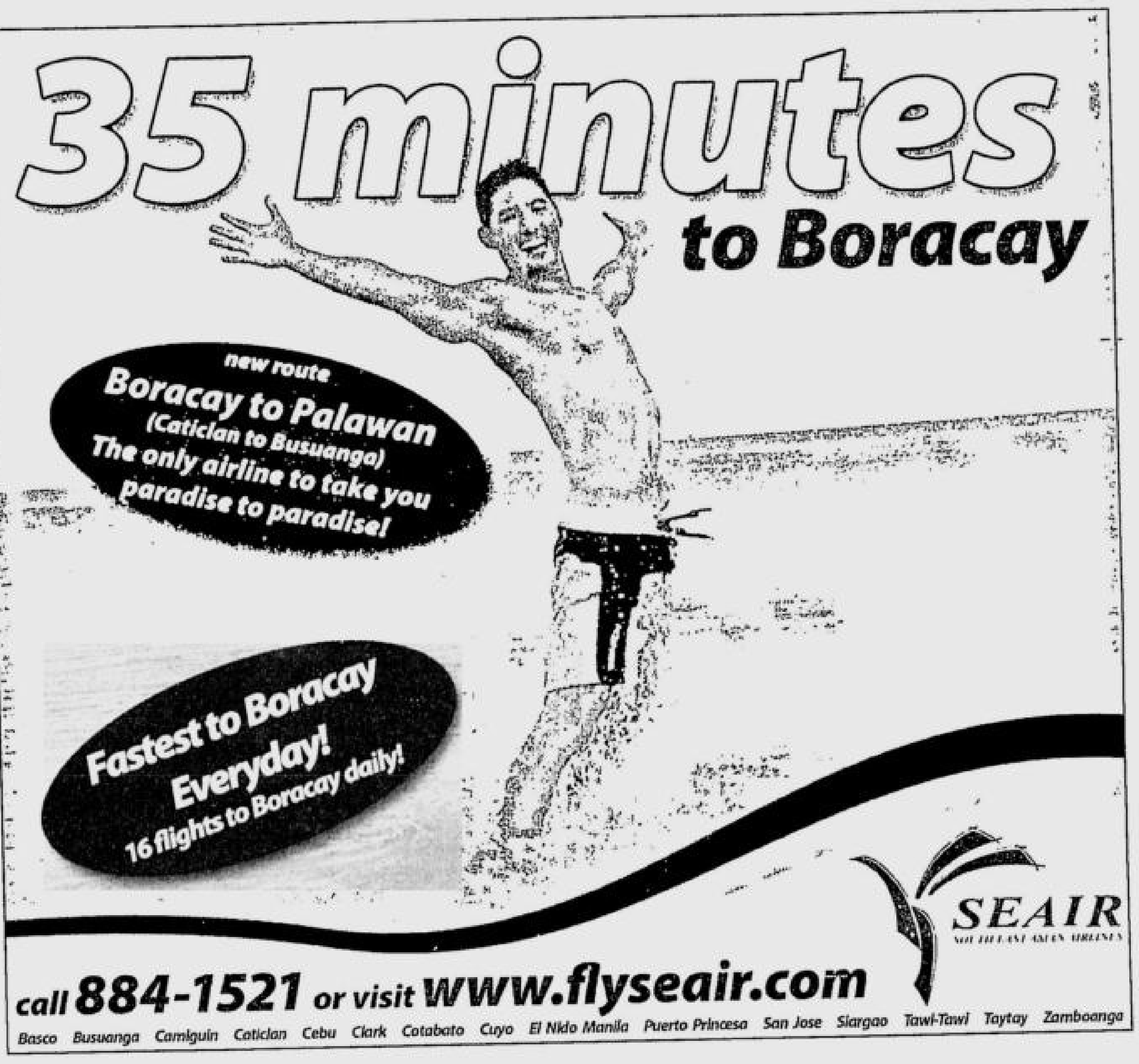
PLASTIC MACHINES ON STOCK
DIRECT FACTORY PRICE


Recycle Machine
Hot Cutting & Straightening Bag Maker
Bottom sealing and cutting bag machine
Super Grinding and Mixing Granulator
Computerized High Speed Roto Gravure Printing Machine
Manual Roto Gravure Press
Computer Rolls-Connecting & Dots Severing (Double Layer) Bag Maker
Cutting and Punching Machine
Auto Slitting Machine
High Speed Laminating Machine
High Speed Bag Making Machine
Polypropylene Film Extrusion Machine
Middle-sealed Machine
Hot Cutting Sealing Side Bag Maker
Sanitary Towel Margin-sealed Machine
Rotary Machine Head Film Blowing Machine Set
HDPE LDPE Film Extruder Machine
Mini Extruder Machine

Other Products:
- INVERTER
- THERMO CONTROLLER
- VS CONTROLLER
- MAGIC EYE
- COUNTER
- TREATING MACHINE

TAIWAN MACHINERY TRADE CENTER
27 Guava Road, Malabon, Metro Manila, Philippines
Tels.: 361-2597• 363-0167• 363-0118 • 363-0166 • 363-0188 • 363-0199
Fax. No.: (632) 361-7102 e-mail: tmtcusa@yahoo.com

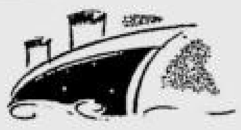
DEALERS ARE WELCOME


35 minutes
to Boracay
new route
Boracay to Palawan
(Caticlan to Busuanga)
The only airline to take you paradise to paradise!
Fastest to Boracay Everyday!
16 flights to Boracay daily!
SEAIR

call 884-1521 or visit www.flyseair.com
Basco Busuanga Camiguin Caticlan Cebu Clark Cotabato Cuyo El Nido Manila Puerto Princesa San Jose Siargao Tawi-Tawi Taytay Zamboanga

Royal Caribbean INTERNATIONAL
Get out there.

Celebrity Cruises



NEW YEAR BEST SELLERS!

3-NIGHT BAHAMAS CRUISE
onboard RCI's **"SOVEREIGN OF THE SEAS"**

FOR AS LOW AS:	CRUISE ONLY	FLY/CRUISE
INTERIOR CABIN	$ 188.00	$ 1,388.00
OCEAN VIEW CABIN	209.00	1,409.00
3RD/4TH PASSENGER	124.00	1,324.00
PORT CHARGES	115.00	per person

SAILING DATE: January 27, 2006

4-NIGHT BAJA MEXICO CRUISE
onboard RCI's **"MONARCH OF THE SEAS"**

FOR AS LOW AS:	CRUISE ONLY	FLY/CRUISE
INTERIOR CABIN	$ 225.00	$ 1,025.00
3RD/4TH PASSENGER	100.00	900.00
PORT CHARGES	132.00	per person

SAILING DATE: February 06, 2006
February 13,2006

7-NIGHT WESTERN CARIBBEAN CRUISE
onboard RCI's **"VOYAGER OF THE SEAS"**

FOR AS LOW AS:	CRUISE ONLY	FLY/CRUISE
INTERIOR CABIN	$ 430.00	$ 1,630.00
OCEAN VIEW CABIN	510.00	1,710.00
SUPERIOR BALCONY	680.00	1,880.00
JUNIOR SUITE	1,010.00	2,210.00
3RD/4TH PASSENGER	360.00	1,560.00
PORT CHARGES	191.00	per person

SAILING DATE: January 28, 2006

12-NIGHT SCANDINAVIA & RUSSIA CRUISE
onboard RCI's **"JEWEL OF THE SEAS"**

FOR AS LOW AS:	CRUISE ONLY	FLY/CRUISE
INTERIOR CABIN	$ 2,054.00	$ 2,954.00
OCEAN VIEW CABIN	2,324.00	3,224.00
3RD/4TH PASSENGER	894.00	1,794.00
PORT CHARGES	306.54	per person

SAILING DATE: May 14, 2006

7-NIGHT WESTERN CARIBBEAN CRUISE
onboard Celebrity's **"CENTURY"**

FOR AS LOW AS:	CRUISE ONLY	FLY/CRUISE
INTERIOR CABIN	$ 561.00	$ 1,761.00
OCEAN VIEW CABIN	721.00	1,921.00
3RD/4TH PASSENGER	261.00	1,461.00
PORT CHARGES	194.00	per person

SAILING DATE: January 28, 2006

11-NIGHT MEXICAN RIVIERA CRUISE
onboard Celebrity's **"MERCURY"**

FOR AS LOW AS:	CRUISE ONLY	FLY/CRUISE
INTERIOR CABIN	$ 859.00	$ 1,659.00
OCEAN VIEW CABIN	1,001.00	1,801.00
3RD/4TH PASSENGER	362.00	1,162.00
PORT CHARGES	277.50	per person

SAILING DATE: February 13,2006

12-NIGHT PANAMA CANAL CRUISE
onboard Celebrity's **"GALAXY"**

FOR AS LOW AS:	CRUISE ONLY	FLY/CRUISE
INTERIOR CABIN	$ 974.00	$ 2,174.00
OCEAN VIEW CABIN	1,282.00	2,482.00
3RD/4TH PASSENGER	438.00	1,638.00
PORT CHARGES	381.50	per person

SAILING DATE: January 21, 2006

LIMITED PROMO:
VOYAGER OF THE SEAS IN EUROPE!!!
7-NIGHT MEDITERRANEAN CRUISE

FOR AS LOW AS:	CRUISE ONLY	FLY/CRUISE
INTERIOR CABIN	$ 1,096.00	$ 2,046.00
OCEAN VIEW CABIN	1,397.00	2,347.00
3RD/4TH PASSENGER	444.00	1,394.00
PORT CHARGES	189.50	per person

SAILING DATE: May 27, 2006 *Hurry, Book Now!!!*

ALL RATES AND CABIN AVAILABILITY ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Call your preferred travel agent or Royal Caribbean International & Celebrity Cruises

Tel. Nos.: 894-3957, 892-2702, 892-2703 or send your inquiries by fax at 892-2790
e-mail: rylcaribbean@arpanair.com.ph
Cebu: c/o Baron Travel (Cebu) Nos.: (032) 255-6095 to 96 or Fax to (032) 254-5344
e-mail:btc-outbound@pacific.net.ph
Website: www.royalcaribbeanphil.com/www.celebritycruisesphil.com

Patent war over flower fest looms

BAGUIO CITY—MAYOR BRAULIO Yaranon on Thursday launched this year's Baguio Flower Festival or Panagbenga amid strong objections from a foundation that claims ownership over the 11-year-old tourist-drawing activity.

Yaranon said the festival he helped organize would run its course because "it is owned by the people" and any group interested in patenting Panagbenga is risking the public's ire.

He was referring to the Baguio Flower Festival Foundation Inc., which is operated by festival founder Damaso Bangaoet and Yaranon's political rivals.

The festival was developed by Bangaoet, employees of the defunct John Hay Poro Point Development Corp. and officials of the Camp John Hay Development Corp. in 1995 to help resuscitate Baguio tourism. The local industry suffered in the aftermath of the 1990 Luzon earthquake.

The foundation ran the event before former Mayor Bernardo Vergara took over Panagbenga in 2003.

Bangaoet and Baguio Rep. Mauricio Domogan have launched the foundation's own Panagbenga schedule of activities, with the support of Cordillera tourism director Purificacion Molintas.

But Yaranon's version now boasts of the support of President Macapagal-Arroyo herself.

Ms Arroyo, according to Yaranon, will attend the festival's grand opening on Jan. 30.

The Baguio City Council discussed the possibility of patenting the name "Panagbenga" in 2005 to secure the government's rights over the activity.

But at the end of 2005, the city council resolved to return the festival's reigns to its founder instead.

Yaranon refuses to acknowledge the council's decision.

During a Jan. 5 press conference, Yaranon said he backed a community-initiated festival that would be run by Baguio Bishop Carlito Cenzon and businesswoman Nelia Cid because Bangaoet abandoned the city in 2005.

Yaranon said the city government would not lift a finger should Bangaoet assert his legal claim over the festival. But he warned any claimant that the festival is now owned by the Baguio community.

Lawyer Wilbert Tan of the Fortun law office said Yaranon's decision to oppose a foundation-run festival was devoid of politics.

Tan brushed aside reports that the foundation was poised to secure a restraining order against Yaranon's group.

Cid, who presided over last year's festival, said the Fortun law office had been helping her clear up legal concerns that arose from the 10th Panagbenga.

Cid and Yaranon are also facing libel cases filed by Vergara and Domogan over allegations that operators of the previous festivals enriched themselves.

The last nine festivals reportedly earned over P100 million in advertising and sales revenues.

Cenzon said he supported Yaranon after failing to negotiate a merger between the foundation and the mayor's group.

"My heart is torn... but time is running out now. My only wish was to help the Panagbenga get on its feet," Cenzon said in a handwritten letter he sent Yaranon on Dec. 29, 2005.

Cid said Bangaoet drafted a memorandum of agreement between her and the foundation, but had not returned to cement the deal. *Vincent Cabreza and Donna Demetillo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

THESE are sample shots of the 10th Baguio Flower Festival. The 11th festival is starting out with controversy because of a battle over who owns it.

VINCENT CABREZA/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Dureza new presidential adviser on peace process

COTABATO CITY—A SPOKESPERSON for the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) welcomed Saturday former Presidential Assistant for Mindanao Jesus Dureza's appointment as the new Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process.

When he was government chief negotiator, Dureza had a spat with the MILF over the official's alleged revision of agreements without consulting the rebel group.

"We are looking forward to a much stronger coordination with him this time," MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu told the INQUIRER.

President Macapagal-Arroyo appointed Dureza on Friday to replace Teresita Deles, who resigned last year. Dureza, 58, also heads the Office of the President in Mindanao and the Mindanao Economic Development Council.

He is also adviser to the government's team that negotiates with the National Democratic Front. *Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Palawan asks court to freeze Malampaya share

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—AFTER obtaining a favorable decision from the regional trial court, the provincial government is seeking to further secure its expected share through the freezing of disbursements from the Malampaya revenues.

Last Dec. 29, the province's legal office filed a "motion to render a full accounting of the actual payments" of Shell Philippines Exploration BV to the Bureau of Treasury and Department of Finance with the RTC's Branch 95.

It also sought to "freeze" or place in escrow account the 40 percent local government unit's share to serve as a protection against use of the money by the national government.

Instead, the funds would have to be set aside and made available only when the court mandates the fund's release to Palawan.

The motion is anchored on an earlier decision of the same court, which declared that Palawan is entitled to a share in the Camago-Malampaya Natural Gas proceeds.

In a 30-page decision, RTC Branch 52 Judge Bienvenido Blancaflor had ruled that the province of Palawan is "entitled to 40-percent share of the national wealth" pursuant to provisions of the 1987 Constitution, in accordance with the Local Government Code of 1991.

Palawan's share shall be computed based on the revenues generated from the Camago-Malampaya natural gas project starting Oct. 16, 2001, said the decision.

Records from the Department of Energy showed that Palawan could still get as much as P1.5 billion as its share for the last three years.

The project is expected to generate about $2.1 billion for Palawan, when the court issues its final ruling.

The motion asked the court to direct Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla to provide a full accounting of the total gross collection from the Camago-Malampaya natural gas project from January 2002 to December 2005, including its conversion to peso denomination, that will clearly show the 40-percent LGU share. *Jofelle P. Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Filing backlog?
SHARP
IMAGER
The Only Digital Copier You Need.
Move forward.
Sharpdesk
Documents
Server
Internet
Sydney
New York
Hong Kong
London
Japan

Loaded with big filing requirements? Address your problem with Sharpdesk™. Scan, archive, index, search and retrieve those packing lists, import/export files, bills and other documents with ease or send these to anywhere in the world in a few seconds. Equipped with powerful security options like the Sharp Data Security Kit (DSK) and fully-flexible networking features, Sharpdesk™ is definitely the ultimate digital filing solution. Call us to learn more about powerful Sharp Document Solutions.

SHARP
IMAGER
The Only Digital Copier You Need.

Sharpdesk™ is highly suitable for business environments with heavy document traffic like law offices, call centers, recruitment firms, brokers, forwarders, schools, medical & health care practitioners.

C-Copy Manila
Tel: 245-9110; 245-9112; 245-9114; 245-4640 to 41
Fax: 245-9109

C-Copy Ortigas
Tels: 631-8714 to 18
Fax: 631-8719

C-Copy Calamba
Tels: (049) 545-9042 to 44
Fax: (049) 545-9045

C-Copy Makati
Tels: 521-2574
Fax: 525-9860

C-Copy Quezon City
Tel: 372-0176 to 79
Fax: 372-0174

C-Copy Cebu
Tel: (032) 346-2985
(032) 346-4565
(032) 420-5806
Fax: (032) 346-3976

C Copy CORPORATION
better closer working harder.

5837 Zobel Roxas Street, Palanan, Makati City
Call Center: 525-9911 loc. 104/105
e-mail: info@ecopy.com.ph • website: www.sharpcopier.com.ph

Copier Sales Fax: 525-9860
Service, Parts & Genuine Consumables
Fax: 525-9870

C-xclusive and authorized Master Distributor of SHARP genuine consumables & original parts.

ROUNDUP

Flight prospects

NOW APPROACHING SCENIC DAVAO...

DAVAO CITY—The Asean Tourism Forum (ATF) 2006, which would be held here this month, could become an opportunity for the opening of direct flights between Davao City and South Korea, according to Art Boncato, president of the Davao Tourism Association. "With Davao as host city of the ATF, there is an opportunity the city will be included in the list of South Korean destinations," he said.

Judy Quiros, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Cell phone snatchers

STA. ROSA CITY—Five women pretending to be holiday revelers snatched the cell phones and other valuables of 10 visitors of the Enchanted Kingdom at Barangay Balibago here on Jan. 1. Police said the security personnel of the Enchanted Kingdom arrested the suspects after being alerted by one of the victims. The suspects, all from Manila, have been detained at the city jail here.

Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Missing teen

STA. CRUZ, Laguna—A fourth year student of the Guevarra National High School here has been reported missing for 12 days now. Police said Joyce Ann Francia, 16, left her home in Barangay San Juan, Sta. Cruz, Laguna at 9 p.m. on Dec. 27 and has not returned since. Ann's mother, Edna Alvarez Francia, told police that her daughter was wearing brown pants, blue jacket and white sandals when she last saw her. She is about 4'11" with brown complexion, black hair at shoulder level and slim body. Those who know the whereabouts of Joyce Ann may call Dorie Matienzo at 0917-9389883; Edna Matienzo of Barangay San Juan, Sta. Cruz; and Laguna Provincial Police Office, Investigation Section at Barangay Bagumbayan.

Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Calamity state in 4 Leyte towns

MAASIN CITY—Four towns in Southern Leyte have been declared in a state of calamity after floods caused by incessant rains wrought havoc to crops and infrastructure, with damages totaling at least P50 million. Declared in a state of calamity were Sogod, St. Bernard, Hinundayan and Hinunangan. The worst hit was Hinunangan, with P23 million in damages to newly planted abaca and to fields placed with rice that was ready for harvest. About 800 hectares of farmlands planted to abaca and rice had been inundated, prompting Mayor Roberto Lagumbay to declare the town in a state of calamity, Mallorca said.

Jani Arnaiz, PDI Visayas Bureau

P100M for roads in Negros Oriental

DUMAGUETE CITY—The Department of Public Works and Highways has allotted P100 million for farm-to-market roads in 25 cities and municipalities in Negros Oriental. Rodrigo Catapusan, DPWH-2nd engineering district acting chief, said the amount is part of the P6-billion infrastructure fund allocated by the national government to Central Visayas. For the first quarter, he said each local government in the province would be entitled to a P2 million farm-to-market road project to be completed by March 15. The same amount for a similar project will also be allocated for the second quarter, he said. The P6-billion fund is taken from the P37-billion savings last year by the national government from interest payments of foreign debts.

Romy G. Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau

Photographer dies

ANGELES CITY—News photographer Ricarte "Boy" Sagad died of complications from pneumonia on Wednesday night. He was 61. A veteran of the police beat in Angeles City and the former Clark Air Base in Pampanga, Sagad was a photographer of The Voice, the oldest news weekly in Central Luzon. He will be buried after an 8 a.m. Mass on Jan. 10 at the old Mabalacat public cemetery.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

P. Laudencia; 84

PEDRO N. Laudencia, 84, an agricultural engineer, died at Berkeley, California USA on Dec. 29, 2005, after a heart attack. He was recognized as the most outstanding agricultural engineer of the Philippines in 1980 and most outstanding alumnus of the University of the Philippines at Los Baños in 1981. He is survived by children Louis, Marilyn, Debbie, Julia, Clint and Deo; daughters-in-law Luzviminda Mendoza Lozada, Merle Crisologo and Laarni Rebuelos; sons-in-law Motonobu Tsuchiya, Alfredo Chingcuanco and Luiman Bringas; and grandchildren Louisa Mae, Levi Micaiah, Rie, Leo, Pierse, Erika, Meriel, Patricia, Patrick and Michael Joshua. Memorial services will be held from Jan. 11 to 14 at the Church of the Holy Redeemer-UCCP at Alley 4 corner Road 2, Project 6, Quezon City. Interment will be at the family plot at Himlayang Pilipino, Quezon City. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the L&L Foundation Inc. For details, call 928-2117; 09198930225.

Davao City prepares for Asean tourism forum

DAVAO CITY—GREEN LAMP-posts with replicas of *waling-waling* forged out of steel, the city's icon, are suddenly sprouting in the middle of the streets here as preparations for the upcoming Association of Southeast Asian (Asean) Tourism Forum (ATF) reaches its frenzy this week.

Despite the rains that persisted since the start of the year, the local government is bent on turning the city into the country's brightest in time for the big event, according to Councilor Susabel Reta, chair of the ATF beautification committee.

As with the citywide beautification, the administration of Mayor Rodrigo Duterte is also putting in place tight security measures, refusing to take chances against possible threats.

Duterte has tasked the police and the military to secure the whole city, even weeks before the event, which commences on Jan. 13th.

But beyond the Filipino's traditional show of hospitality, and making the guests feel safe and comfortable, Duterte said he turned down the suggestion by Singaporean delegates for a firecracker display in the city.

"A firecracker ban is still in effect here and bending the law might encourage violators," he said. Duterte has asked foreign visitors to make arrangements with neighboring cities like Samal or Tagum, Davao del Norte where fireworks are allowed.

He warned that mere possession of firecrackers here is unlawful.

"If they want, they can do fireworks display in the midst of the Davao Gulf, beyond the city's jurisdiction," he said.

Tourism Secretary Ace Durano said the ATF will put Davao back on the map of the world's top tourist destinations.

The city's image as one of the most loveable places in Asia has been tarnished by the 2003 bombings that killed more than 40 persons and wounded scores of others.

Barely a week from now, flags from the 10-member Asean will fly along the city's main thoroughfare as the city hosts the biggest gathering of government ministers and tourism industry players in the Asean.

Top government officials and key tourism players will be in Davao for the 25th ATF, a regional cooperation within the Asean to promote Southeast Asia as one tourist destination to the global travel market. The Asean is composed of Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Philippines, Myanmar, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Indonesia and Brunei.

Myanmar was slated to host the event this year but backed out at the last moment.

The Philippines was supposed to host the ATF in 2007 yet.

The nine-day event will involve a series of Asean ministerial conferences, travel fair and business meetings in the city's various first class resorts.

One of ATF's main features is the Travel Exchange (Travex) that will take place at the NCCC Mall exhibition center, where buyers of wholesale tourism packages from all over the world will have a chance to meet top tourism players in the region.

"Close to 500 buyers have signed up for the event, with the Europeans outnumbering other visitors from other parts of the world," Art Boncato, president of the Davao Tourism Association, said. *Germelina A. Lacorte, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

No deaths in Lanao Sur clan war, Southcom exec says

COTABATO CITY—NO ONE WAS HURT IN Thursday's clashes between two feuding families in Lanao del Sur, according to Brig. Gen. Benjamin Dolorfino, deputy commander of the military's Southern Command.

Dolorfino said on Friday that one of the warring clans have reported that 10 of their men were killed so they could get sympathy from the government.

"The report is not true. There was no casualty on both sides," Dolorfino said.

He said the source of the report about fatalities was a tribal leader, who picked up the rumor spread by one of the warring parties.

"I talked to our ground commander in Lanao and he told me the Kibad and Balt families were trying to exaggerate the report to get government attention," Dolorfino said.

He said as of Saturday afternoon, the claimed casualty figure decreased to two.

"But this morning, we received feedback that there was really no fatality," he said.

On Thursday, violence erupted in Tuburan town when members of the Kibad and Balt families clashed with the Masigay and Dimaporo clans.

In recent months, more than 20 people from both sides have died because of the feud.

"We will dispatch emissaries anytime to pacify both sides," Dolorfino said.

He said the military describes the latest confrontation as an "acoustic war" because although the two sides have been fighting, there were no casualties.

Chief Supt. Akmad Mamalinta, chief of the Autonomous Region police, said ARMM Gov. Zaldy Ampatuan has tasked Vice Gov. Ansaruddin Adiong to work out a peaceful settlement of the raging clan war in Tuburan.

"Dozens of policemen from the PNP-ARMM regional office were deployed to Tuburan Friday to help local leaders pacify warring families," Mamalinta said.

Governor Ampatuan said religious leaders have also been tapped to help resolve the conflict. *Jeoffrey Maitem and Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Go Around the World with GLOBUS. family Vacation Packages

COSMOS - EUROPE/USA & CANADA

	For as low as
THE SPLENDORS OF ITALY	US$ 830
SPAIN, PORTUGAL & MOROCCO	1,190
CENTRAL EUROPE	1,220
COSMOPOLITAN EUROPE	1,330
THE BEST OF EUROPE	1,510
WESTERN WONDERS	1,169
NIAGARA FALLS & WASHINGTON D.C	1,239
GOLDEN WEST ADVENTURE	1,399
THE CANADIAN ROCKIES	1,559
EASTERN U.S & GRAND CANADA VACATION	1,359

GLOBUS - EUROPE/USA & CANADA

	For as low as
ESSENTIAL EUROPE	US$ 1,699
THE POPULAR	2,799
THE BEST OF ITALY & FRANCE	2,319
SPECTACULAR SPAIN	1,069
BEST OF AUSTRIA & SWITZERLAND	1,849
CALIFORNIA CLASSICS	US$ 1,599
MAJESTIC ROCKIES plus VICTORIA	2,189
PACIFIC COAST ADVENTURE	1,999
GREAT CANADIAN RAIL JOURNEY	2,719
SOUTH AMERICAN SAMPLER	2,789

Brennan Vacations™ Come Discover Your World!

	For as low as
GLORIOUS BRITAIN	US$ 3,031
SCOTTISH MAJESTY	2,159
TUSCAN OPULENCE	2,551
GERMAN ROMANCE	1,935
HISTORICAL NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR	2,518
ENCHANTING CANYON LANDS	2,288
HAWAII DISCOVERY	4,340

AVALON WATERWAYS

	For as low as
TULIP TIME CRUISE	US$ 1,699
IMPERIAL WATERWAYS	1,899
THE LEGENDARY DANUBE	2,549
MAGICAL CHINA & YANGTZE	2,639
MAGNIFICENT EUROPE	3,399
HEART OF CHINA & YANGTZE RIVER CRUISE	3,669
GRAND BLACK SEA	4,499

BritRail & Eurail Passes NOW AVAILABLE!

For Inquiries and reservations:

the baron travel corporation

Main Office: Cityland 10 Tower 2 Ayala Ave., North Cor. Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City • Tel. No. 817-4926 Fax: 819-2993
E-mail: ftd@barontravel.com.ph • **Cebu Branch:** Suite 1 Cebu Capitol Com'l Complex Cebu City • Tel. No. 245-5378 / 255-6095
Fax: 254-5344 E-mail: btc-outbound@pacific.net.ph
DOT Accreditation No. TO-037-2005

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region - IX Western Mindanao, Zamboanga City
Tel. Nos. (062) 9911828, (062) 9850884, Fax No. (062) 9911339

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Food Authority, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites all interested Labor Services' Contractor, to apply for eligibility and to bid for the in-warehouse handling of the 2006 NFA imported/local rice and/or palay at the following areas:

Warehouse/Province	Estimated Volume (In bags of 50 kg.)	Approved Rate per bag of 50 kg.	Approved Budget (In Pesos)
1. Taway GID Whse, Ipil ZS	232,000	2.00	464,000.00
2. Guiawa Whse, Malangas ZS	148,000	2.00	296,000.00
3. Tiguma GID Whses, Pag. ZDS	410,000	1.75	717,500.00
4. Culo GID Whse, Molave, ZDS	90,000	1.75	157,500.00
5. Gulayon GID, Whse, ZDN	452,000	2.00	904,000.00
6. FSC Whse, S. Osmeña, ZDN	34,000	2.00	68,000.00
7. Lituban Whse, Siocon ZDN	36,000	2.00	72,000.00
TOTAL	1,402,000		2,679,000.00

All labor contractors interested to participate in the bidding must be registered/accredited with NFA. Application forms for eligibility to bid, list of eligibility requirements and bid documents shall be issued upon submission of Letter of Intent to participate and payment of a nonrefundable fee of Php 3,500.00 to the NFA in Zamboanga City on the scheduled date and time stated below.

Prospective bidders should have the experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use nondiscretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

Schedule of bidding activities:

Particulars	Date and Time
• Last Day of Application for Registration/renewal of interested bidders who are not NFA accredited cargo handling operators or with expired registration	January 18, 2006 / 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
• Issuance of application forms for eligibility and list of eligibility requirements, submission of Letter of Intent & Issuance of Bid forms	January 12-13; 16-18, 2006
• Pre-Bid Conference*	January 19, 2006 / 2:00 P.M.
• Opening of Bids*	February 3, 2006 / 2:00 P.M.
• Bid Evaluation	February 6-7, 2006
• Post-Qualification	February 8-13, 2006
• Notice of Award	February 14, 2006

* Venue will be at the NFA Conference Room, Gov. Ramos Ave., San Roque, Zambo. City.

The National Food Authority assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd) ROLANDO M. MARAVILLA
OIC - Office of the ARM, and
Chairman, NFA-IX BAC

(PDI - January 9 and 16, 2006)

Standard Form Number: SF-GOOD-05
Revised on: July 28, 2004

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF LA UNION
City of San Fernando

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF LA UNION, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder contract.

NAME OF CONTRACT	LOCATION	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT	CONTRACT DURATION
1. DRUGS & MEDICINES	Provincial Capitol Building, City of San Fernando, La Union	Purchases of Drugs & Medicines, Medical/Surgical Laboratory Supplies and Reagents, Dental, X-Ray and Ortho for LUMC and District Hospitals	P 12,554,882.95	180 CD
2. MEDICAL/SURGICAL			P 6,508,325.75	180 CD
3. LABORATORY			P 1,803,249.00	180 CD
4. DENTAL			P 160,654.50	180 CD
5. X-RAY			P 532,543.00	180 CD
6. ORTHO			P 149,110.00	180 CD

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 2 years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities			Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents			January 6, 2006
2. Pre-Bid Conference			January 11, 2006, 9:00 AM
3. Opening of Bids	a.	Drugs and Medicines	January 30, 2006, 9:00 AM, Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol, SFC
	b.	Medical/Surgical	January 31, 2006, 9:00 AM
	c.	Laboratory	February 01, 2006, 9:00 AM
	d.	Dental	February 01, 2006, 1:00 PM
	e.	X-Ray	February 01, 2006, 1:00 PM
	f.	Ortho	February 01, 2006, 1:00 PM
4. Bid Evaluation			February 02 to February 16, 2006
5. Post-Qualification			February 02 to February 16, 2006
6. Notice of Award			February 02 to February 16, 2006

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P5,000.00 to the Office of the Provincial Treasurer's Cashier.

The PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF LA UNION assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) DR. GEOFFREY S. TILAN
BAC Chairman

Contact Person:

(Sgd.) MS. CATHERINE E. FRANCO
BAC TWG Chairman/Assistant Provincial Budget Officer
Tel. No. (072) 700-5309

(PDI - Jan 2 & 9, 2006)

RP's First Choice in Watches

Philippines SUPERBRAND 2005

IT'S YOUR WATCH THAT TELLS MOST ABOUT WHO YOU ARE.

ARCTURA KINETIC CHRONOGRAPH

POWERED BY THE MOVEMENT OF YOUR BODY.
QUARTZ ACCURACY. NO BATTERY CHANGE
SAPPHIRE CRYSTAL. 10 BAR WATER RESISTANT

SEIKO
www.sscl.com.ph

Always ask for a warranty card

FREE CHECK-UP

Seiko Service Center Exclusive quality service w/ longest warranty

THE BEST SERVICE FOR SEIKO & ALBA WATCHES AT THESE SEIKO SERVICE CENTERS
• **MAIN LABS.:** 2310 Majalco Bldg., Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City Tel. (632) 886-6771 to 72 • **MAKATI :** G72 Glorietta 1, Ayala Center, Makati City Tel. (632) 892-8302 • **MANILA :** 1990 NICFUR Bldg. cor. Taft & Quirino Ave., Malate, Manila Tel. (632) 523-8676 • **QUEZON CITY :** # 4 Lower Ground Floor. New Farmer's Plaza Araneta Center Cubao, Q. C. Tel. (632) 913-1908 • WB 206 SM City, North Ave. cor. EDSA Q.C. Tel. (632) 929-3097 • **CAVITE :** 008 SM City Bacoor, Tirona cor. Emilio Aguinaldo Hi-Way, Bacoor, Cavite Tel.(046) 970-4976 • **CEBU :** Lower Ground Flr., SM City North Reclamation Area, Cebu City Tel.: (032) 232- 0782 • J. Rodriguez Bldg., Osmeña Blvd., Cebu City Tel.(032) 253-6936

From SEIKO WATCH CORPORATION

Listens to African music.
Collects toy figures. Walks the greyhound.
Retreats to a yoga hideaway.
Dream is not a dream.
Wears an Alba.

ALBA

Available at any SEIKO Service Center and authorized Dealers nationwide

Most dormitories 'virtual death traps'

By Cyril L. Bonabente
PDI Research

"VIRTUAL DEATH TRAPS."

That was how Alvin Estrada, spokesperson of the United Fire Fighters of the Philippines, described in 2001 some buildings in Metro Manila.

Estrada had said that most dormitories in the University Belt and at the University of the Philippines Diliman were violating the Fire Code.

"By their looks alone, these are apparently fire traps," Estrada said at the time.

His remarks fit in with an observation by Manila architect Luis Santos that majority of the dormitories in the city did not comply with the National Building Code.

The information was disclosed in a 1996 public hearing conducted by the Senate committee on urban planning, housing and resettlement chaired by then Sen. Gregorio Honasan.

In the same hearing, an official of the Manila City administrator's office admitted that, of the 282 boardinghouses and dormitories recommended for closure by a committee created by then Mayor Alfredo Lim, only 25 had been formally closed.

Among the violations found by the committee was lack of fire exits and ventilation.

Most residents of the dormitories were students from the provinces who chose to study in Manila.

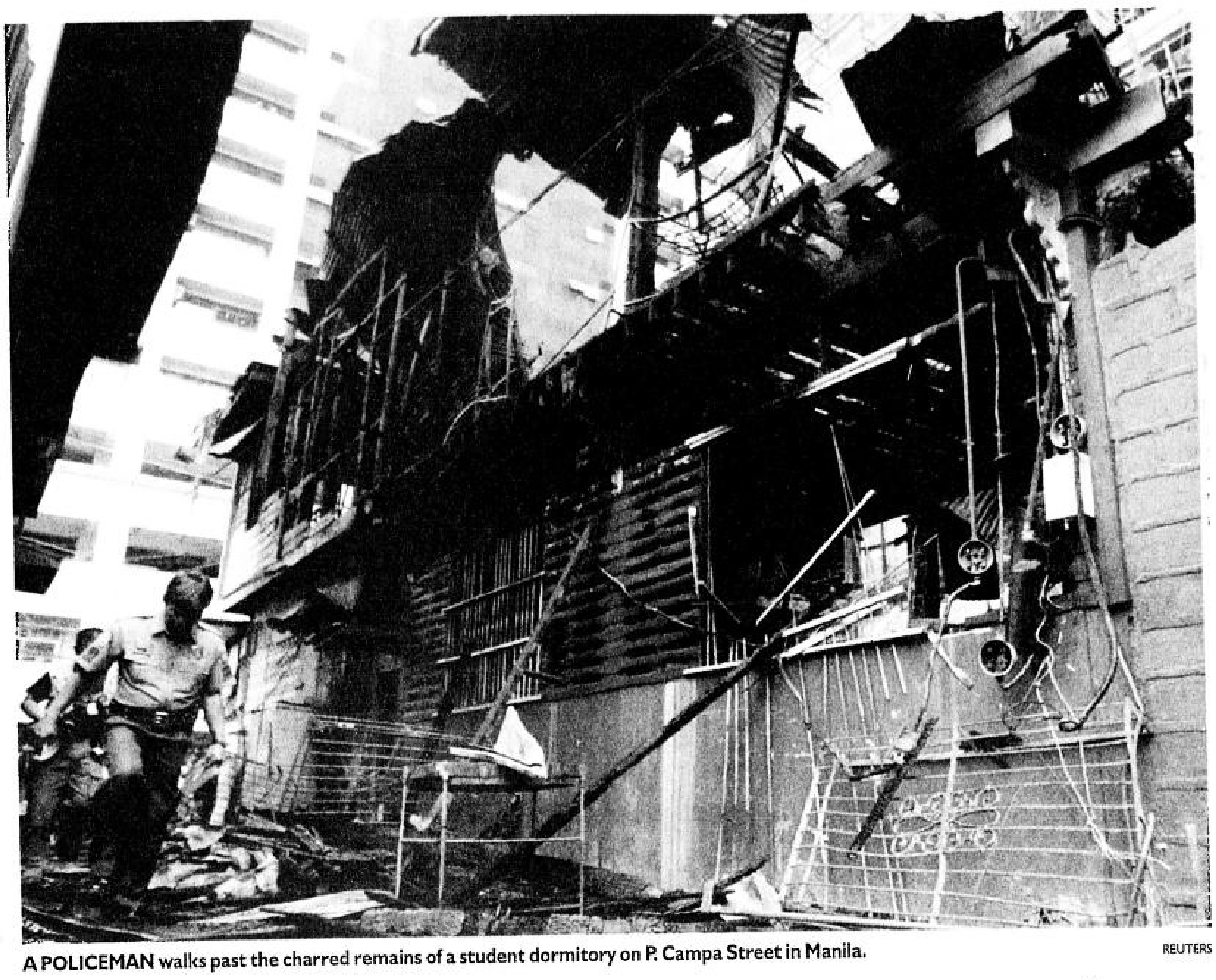
The following were some of the reported fire incidents in dormitories and boardinghouses in Metro Manila:

January 2001—A man pours kerosene and lights the curtains of a dormitory at Tahanang Mapagpala, an orphanage in Caloocan, causing an early-morning stampede.

July 27, 2001—An 11-hour blaze in Tondo, Manila, kills a 6-year-old girl and her 5-year-old brother and destroys 300 houses—mostly illegal residences along the Philippine National Railway tracks—leaving 600 families homeless. Authorities estimate the damage to property at P100 million. The fire reportedly started inside a boardinghouse.

Jan. 1, 2002—Fires break out in two boardinghouses in Manila—the Borja Roxas Building in Dapitan and Chica Boarding House in Quiapo. No one is injured.

Dec. 21, 2005—Fire guts a two-story boardinghouse in Barangay San Isidro, Parañaque City.



A POLICEMAN walks past the charred remains of a student dormitory on P. Campa Street in Manila. REUTERS

Fire guts boardinghouse at University Belt

From page A1

About 12 families lived in the building at 833 P. Campa St., aside from other tenants who occupied 17 rooms on the second floor, according to barangay chair Malou Chan.

Besides Lachica, the fatalities were identified by fire officials as Mark Lester Relente, 22; Joey Dangaran, 25, and Jelmar Capati, 19.

The four other victims, three males and a female, were still unidentified as of press time.

Preliminary reports suggested the fire started in the kitchen on the ground floor.

The old building, totally gutted, was made of light and concrete materials, investigators said.

Escape through windows

Guillermo said seven of the victims were apparently drinking beer before the fire broke out at 3:36 a.m.

He said the owner of a nearby store told investigators some of the victims had bought beer from her hours before the fire occurred.

Three of the victims—Relente, Dangaran and Capati—worked as helpers at the Best Choice water refilling station near the boardinghouse.

The other boarders initially panicked but were able to clamber out of the windows.

Blocked exits

Firemen reported seeing suitcases and other belongings blocking exits of the building, making it difficult for people to escape.

TV footage showed two women weeping on the street as they awaited word on the fate of friends and relatives in the burning building.

Raised voices and stampeding feet roused Leda Andion, a 30-year-old nurse and one of the boarders, from her sleep.

Thinking her housemates had caught a burglar, she and Ryan Pilapil, a longtime friend, rushed downstairs.

Thick billowing smoke and screams of "Fire!" greeted them.

Shouts in the darkness

Within seconds, electric power was cut and a smoky darkness enveloped the second floor of the boardinghouse, drifting toward the rooms.

Pilapil led a small group of boarders toward a room facing the street, shouting directions in the dark. Through the smoke, Andion saw others lining up to jump through the window grill opening.

But they could not move fast enough because some of the boarders were lugging huge bags with them, Andion recalled.

"I was trying to get some air, but there was only smoke," she said, recalling her struggle to breathe.

Lucky to be alive

Andion was about to lose consciousness when Pilapil put his arm around her neck, while holding another woman with his other arm.

Then they jumped out the window.

The three tumbled down the metal planks, and dropped hard onto a blue Toyota van parked just across the boardinghouse.

"I almost did not feel the impact. The instant we jumped, all my concentration was on the air rushing back into my lungs," Andion said. "I'm lucky to be alive."

Andion, who is studying for the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools, said she felt she was at death's door just before the jump.

Saving important papers

Were it not for Pilapil, 23, she would not have lasted inside the building, she said.

The eight people who died could have had more warning and time to save themselves if some had not carried so much luggage with them, she lamented.

Andion herself was only able to recover a small bag containing important papers.

One of the boarders who could not do without her baggage was Mae Baligasa, 22, an information technology student at University of the East.

During the commotion, a man got angry at her for "putting my luggage first before other people's lives," she said.

But Baligasa defended her action, saying she had always kept that bag containing important papers ready in case of an emergency.

Chatting on the phone

"Nobody expected it would end this way," she said.

Baligasa was chatting on the phone with a man she had met online when the fire struck.

"I don't usually have such long conversations on the phone. It's a blessing in disguise. I would probably have been sleeping and not noticed anything," she said.

When she heard the commotion outside, she opened the door and immediately smelled smoke.

Suddenly, the lights went out and she had to find her way in the dark to the window exit, she said.

Fear of death

"I thought I was going to suffocate to death," she said.

Finally, she found the exit, pushed her bag out the window, and jumped.

Edward Tia, 43, a mechanical engineer applying for a job in Saudi Arabia, said the boardinghouse was owned by a certain Constantino Manahan.

Until yesterday, it was home to students, seafarers, employees and families, he said.

He could not say how many occupants there were, but said there were probably fewer than 50.

It was fortunate, however, that many of the boarders were on vacation, otherwise, more people could have died, Tia added.

The remains of the fatalities were brought to Universal Funeral Service in Sta. Cruz, Manila.

Manila was hit by more than 400 fires last year.

Young consumers prefer e-load to eating

From page A1

home to Bicol for a vacation, followed her and swamped her mobile phone inbox.

Not luxury but necessity

"If you ask me, the cell phone load has become a necessity for us Filipinos. It is no longer a luxury," said Nario. "And sales are getting even stronger."

Nario, who started selling cell phone loads in June 2005, said she had been using sales from it to keep her *sari-sari* store afloat.

Indeed, the tectonic plates of consumer spending have shifted to telecommunications over the past couple of years.

Consumer spending for telecommunications and transport (which are lumped together in the statistics) has been steadily increasing since 2003, the same year the electronic cell phone load was introduced.

Better than buying food

In absolute amounts, Filipinos spent P165.8 billion for telecommunication and transport services in the first half of 2005 from P118.03 billion the previous year and P98 billion in the same period in 2003.

The growth in spending for telecommunications and transport has been outstripping other major expenditure groups, such as utilities (17.8 percent), food (12.6 percent) and beverage (5 percent).

Rafael Buenaventura, former Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas governor, had noticed as early as 2003 that more and more people were buying cell phone loads than food or cigarettes. He thought that a change in computing inflation was in order.

Soon after, the economic planning agency had to reconstitute the consumer price index by increasing the weight of telecommunications and transport to reflect their higher share in the allocation of the consumer wallet.

Globe Telecom Inc.'s qualitative research showed that "consumers tend to scrimp more on other basic necessities like food and transportation and 'gimmicks' rather than on cell phone load."

Lerma Nacu, a Smart retailer, has seen how the spending pattern has changed in recent years.

Along with her electronic load business, Nacu has a *halo-halo* (a concoction of fruit, milk and crushed ice) and ice candy stall. Of the three, her cell phone load business is the one that sells briskly in any weather, no matter what's happening in politics or the economy.

No season for texting

"The *halo halo* has a season but the load chooses no day or month," said Nacu. "It's always in demand, even if life is getting worse."

Sales of phone loads, she said, had been unaffected by rising prices and the supposedly weak spending capacity of Filipinos.

Her store on San Jose Street in Mandaluyong City is frequented by college students from a nearby campus. They would rather starve a little and sacrifice their much-loved soda in favor of a phone load, she said.

Cell phone-crazy Pinoys

By her own account, Nacu sells an average of P350 worth of load a day. A retailer who sells P3,500 worth a month gets a P300 free top up, which he can sell or use for himself.

In a country where more than half of the population is considered poor, the cell phone-crazed citizens surely have messed up their priorities. Or maybe not.

The Philippines, is after all, the world's texting capital, where more than 400 million messages are sent a day by more than 30 million mobile phone users.

Absolute numbers are much greater in countries like China, where some 350 million mobile phone subscribers send about a billion text messages a day. But the ratio of text to every subscriber is more than 10 in the Philippines, against an average of three in China.

Keeping in touch

Globe Telecom president Gerardo Ablaza said keeping in touch had become a necessity for Filipinos.

Indeed, a Pinoy who has not received a text message for a few hours tends to feel alone and incomplete.

After all, all it takes is a P1 text message to cheer up a man, or break his heart.

"Where *merienda* (snack) and 'gimmick' have become a little bit of a luxury, communication has become a basic need in this country," said the head of Globe, the company that pioneered text messaging in the Philippines.

Trickle-down effect

Fortunately, it is not just Globe and its rival, Smart, which are raking in money. Profits are trickling down to their more than a million dealers and retailers all over the country.

Eric Yu, president of Cellprime, one of Globe's major dealers, said that while sales of phone cards appeared to have been insulated from the general economic malaise, growth had been capped.

Where last year's sales continued to rise by double digits, growth this year had been anemic at 1 to 2 percent.

No end in sight

"The cell phone business didn't get hit negatively unlike the others but growth had flattened," said Yu. "Because of the slowdown, we are forced to put expansion plans on hold."

Still, he said, those in the cell phone business were certainly doing much better than most.

Rogelio Quevedo, former Smart chief legal officer and now head of the wholesale business of PLDT, said mobile phone companies weren't just competing against each other anymore.

"Nowadays, we compete with soda and shampoo makers and cinema owners," he said.

It helps that prices of telecom services have been dropping while everything else from fuel to cooking oil has gone up.

Thus, the mobile phone craze that began in the late '90s is nowhere near dissipation. *Tomorrow: The jolly jeep phenomenon.*

How to start an e-load business

From page A1

3. Business earnings range from 13 percent to 15 percent for every auto load. With Smart, one can receive reward points by activating his or her Smart Money Card for a fee of P200. Points earned from Smart Money Card can be converted into a personal load or payment when one reloads. *Jamie Alarcon and Chona Galang, PDI Research*

Estrada camp turns cold to alliance plan

From page A1

Presidents Fidel V. Ramos and Corazon C. Aquino against the scandal-wracked Arroyo administration.

"We're not so hot on it," said Estrada's son, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada. "We're not so eager about it. If such an alliance comes about, that's fine by us. If not, then let it be."

The young Estrada believed that sharing a "common agenda," like setting up a transitory form of government if President Macapagal-Arroyo stepped down, could bring the three former Presidents together and jump-start the talks.

"If they have a common agenda to uplift the lives of the people and solve the crisis, they can work together," he said. When pressed what could be the common agenda, he said: "Maybe a transitory form of government and who should lead it."

The senator, however, pointed out that any unity plan among the former leaders should benefit not only one personality. "If it's for the good of the country, why not? If it's for the good of just one individual, forget it," he said.

No takers

The elder Estrada declared on Thursday that he was willing to set aside whatever political differences he had with Ramos and Aquino, and forge a united front with them "for the good of our country."

The next day, his spokesperson Didagen Dilangalen harped on this in radio interviews, but there were no takers. Ramos has said such a collaboration would not happen, while Aquino has opted to be mum on this.

Estrada's former agrarian secretary, Horacio Morales, floated the idea on Wednesday, saying the United Opposition would form an alliance of the three former leaders to compel Ms Arroyo to step down.

The three could serve as senior advisers to a "transitory governing council" that could be set up after Ms Arroyo stepped down, he said.

The proposal, among other issues, was discussed when Ramos met with Senate President Franklin Drilon and former Sen. Vicente Sotto III on Jan. 2 at his office in Makati City, according to Sotto.

'Alliance doomed'

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said the alliance was doomed because of Ramos.

"How can you have a good alliance if one of the parties is untrustworthy, like Ramos? How can Cory and Erap trust Ramos?" Pimentel said in an interview. "He's a mole of Gloria, living up to his days as an intelligence officer."

Senator Estrada, however, disagreed. "His support for Gloria is waning. Sooner or later, he [Ramos] will make a clean break," he said, citing his sources.

Ramos issued a statement on Friday through his media adviser, Ed Malay, but kept people guessing as to whether he still supported the Arroyo administration.

Malay said Ramos would attend the Jan. 14 Lakas national directorate meeting and the Jan. 24 Council of State meeting, but stressed that this should not be interpreted any other way because the former President remained the founder and chair emeritus of the party.

SUERTRES 0 3 3
(In exact order)
EZ2 4 1

Text us your feedba....
inquirer met name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

METRO

Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

SUPERLOTTO 6/49
1 10 11 16 45 49
P84,514,102.20

Condo units for QC informal settlers

By DJ Yap

THE LIVES OF 58 FAMILIES WHO used to be informal settlers have taken a turn for the better with the awarding of cheap condominium units by the Quezon City government.

Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. recently formally turned over the keys to the low-cost medium-rise building to the first batch of beneficiaries of the city's housing program in Barangay Escopa III, Project 4.

The families can now occupy their own units at Hura Homes I on P. Burgos Street through the city's Housing and Urban Renewal Authority, a city-owned corporation.

The condominium-type building is just a block away from Aurora Boulevard and the Light Rail Transit and Metro Rail Transit systems.

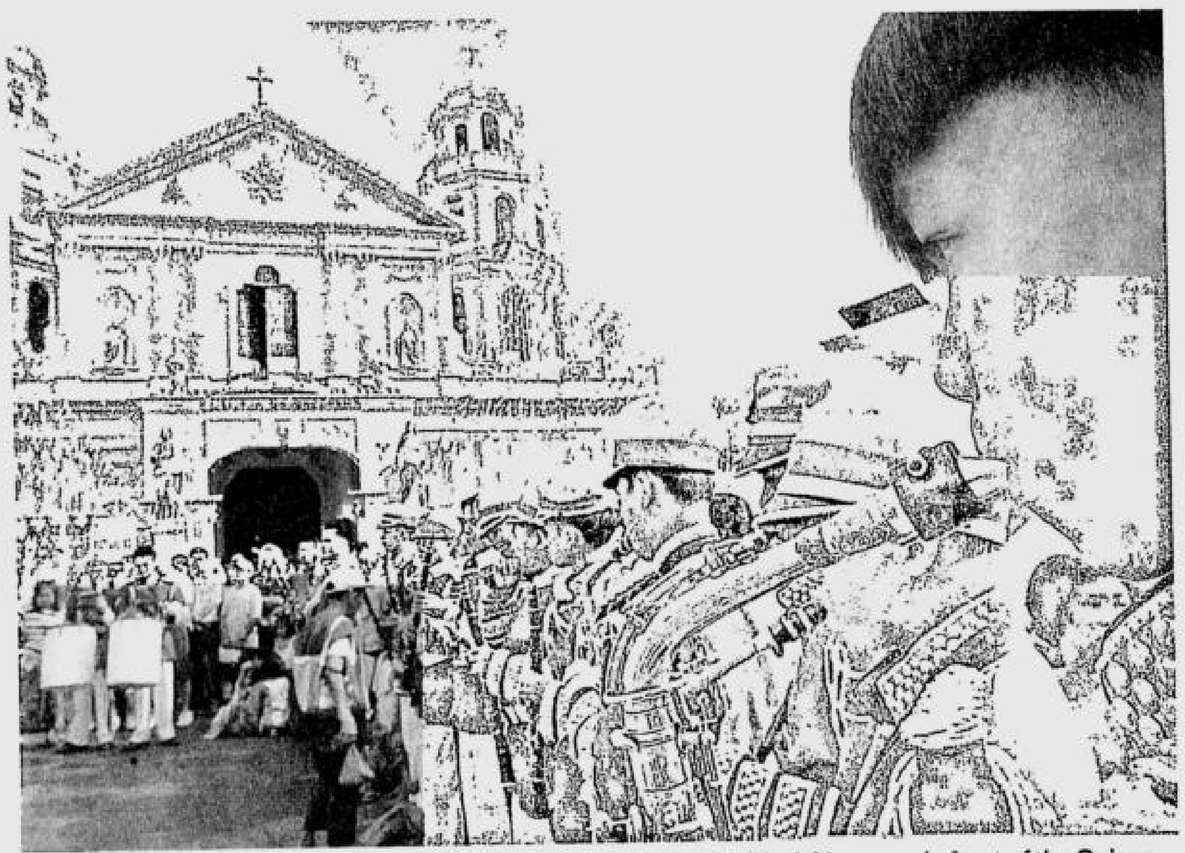
Designed to accommodate 80 families, the condominium will also become the new home of 22 other informal settler families, once they have completed the documentation and payment requirements of the program.

Each unit has a floor area of 15 sq m, with a strong water supply, electrical connection, a concrete roof deck, a garbage chute, and an emergency fire alarm system.

The condo units have a selling price ranging from P161,969 to P225,000 each. Those who availed of the housing program opted to pay for their units either in cash or in easy installments within a 10 to 15-year period.

Hura Homes I was developed exclusively for the city's informal settlers and low-income government employees. Once completed, the project will feature four medium-rise buildings that can accommodate 320 families.

Hura is also developing a low-cost housing program in Barangay Vasra for City Hall employees.



MEMBERS of a marching band practice for today's Feast Day of the Black Nazarene in front of the Quiapo Church. Nearby streets will be closed to traffic starting at 10 a.m. to make way for the procession. ERIK ARAZAS

Traffic rerouted for procession

By Margaux C. Ortiz

MOTORISTS PASSING THROUGH Manila's streets are advised to follow a traffic rerouting scheme to maintain the normal flow of vehicles during today's feast of the Black Nazarene in Quiapo.

Manila Police District director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong has ordered the Traffic Enforcement Group to conduct traffic flow maintenance to prevent traffic grid locks when thousands of devotees start flocking to the Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene.

"All police units in Quiapo district are instructed to conduct clearing operations along the streets that will be used for the procession to prevent obstruction of the flow of the parade," Bulaong said in a statement.

Police officials also promised to deploy 250 policemen in the area, more than a hundred of whom would be undercover agents, to ensure peace and order.

There will also be police assistance centers in at least four vital spots in the area.

The southbound lane of Quezon Boulevard fronting Quiapo Church will be closed to motorists starting at 10 a.m. today.

The following streets in Quiapo District will also be closed: Andalucia, Fugoso, Palanca, Estero Cegado, Isetann Service Road, Recto, Nepomuceno and Bilibid Viejo, Casal, Arlegui (the stretch from Casal or Legarda to Barbosa), Hidalgo and San Sebastian.

Those going to Quiapo from España are advised to take Nicanor Reyes Street (formerly Morayta), turn left to Recto leading to Legarda going to P. Casal.

Those coming from Dimasalang and Blumentritt going to Quezon Boulevard and Quiapo can use the underpass in going straight to Recto and right to Oroquieta Street.

Those going to MacArthur Bridge can take North Jones Flyover, turn right to PhilPost or take Plaza Lacson straight to Plaza Sta. Cruz and left to F. Torres leading to Recto.

Passenger jeeps plying the Divisoria via Quiapo route are advised to use the Recto U-turn slot upon reaching the closed Isetann Road leading to Nicanor Reyes Street.

Motorists from S.H. Loyola Street to Quiapo can turn left to Recto and left to Legarda.

From Legarda, those going to P. Casal and Palanca Streets can take Ayala Bridge in going to Taft Avenue leading to P. Burgos and Quezon Bridge. *With Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

METRO OPINION

Cattle

I REMEMBER THIS TV DOCUMENTARY about life on a cattle ranch in the USA. There was a segment showing cows to be branded imprisoned behind yellow metal rails.

The rails snaked along in the shape of a continuous letter S. It terminated at a device that held a cow fast so a ranch hand could brand it.

This image of obedient cattle in a long, snaking line invariably comes to mind whenever I see those pink metal fences at the Metro Rail Transit (MRT) North Avenue Station's bus stop.

I've ridden the MRT almost every week since the line opened. Until last year when they built those cattle pen-like fences, I almost always got down at North Avenue to take a Monumento bus for home.

I now alight at the GMA-Kamuning station whose bus stop is located just a few meters from its exit. This is a life saving decision on my part.

The "geniuses" who designed the North Avenue cattle pens force tired riders to take a five-minute walk along heavily polluted Edsa to get to the bus stop.

For those who have to go to SM, there is the added ordeal of climbing the stairs of an unroofed MMDA pedestrian overpass that offers no protection from the rain and sun.

This commuter's Calvary, I read, is meant to ease traffic flow and protect pedestrians. I've got no beef about the aim.

But these MMDA "geniuses" should have first walked the walk, literally, to find out first hand how painful it is for tired women, children, senior citizens and men to trod a further five minutes just so they can take a crowded bus home.

Couldn't these "geniuses" have built the bus stop closer to the station? Land is available.

Today, however, the doomed inhale all that gloriously carcinogenic Edsa air as they plod along like cattle behind pink fences toward the North Avenue bus stop.

Here, the doomed resemble cattle as they patiently wait for their rides behind snaking metal rails.

Cattle. That's what we are to bureaucrats.

Traffic management and pedestrian engineering take precedence over our health, survival and well-being.

And by being forced to inhale more of Edsa's deadly toxins than we should, we are truly cattle being led to the slaughter.

—ART VILLASANTA
artthincs@yahoo.com

METROBRIEFS

2 laborers killed

Two laborers were stabbed dead by three men on Saturday in Quezon City. Noynoy Francisco, 40, and Jerome Alberto, 34, with friend John Canzon, were waiting for a tricycle at 11:55 p.m. on Magsaysay Street in Doña Faustina Subdivision, Barangay San Bartolome when Alfonso Salvador, a welder, with two unidentified male companions, started a fight with them for still unknown reasons, according to a police report. They exchanged blows until the suspects pulled out a knife and stabbed the victims. Francisco died on the spot while Alberto died on the way to the hospital. Canzon was unhurt. The three suspects, however, escaped.

DJ Yap

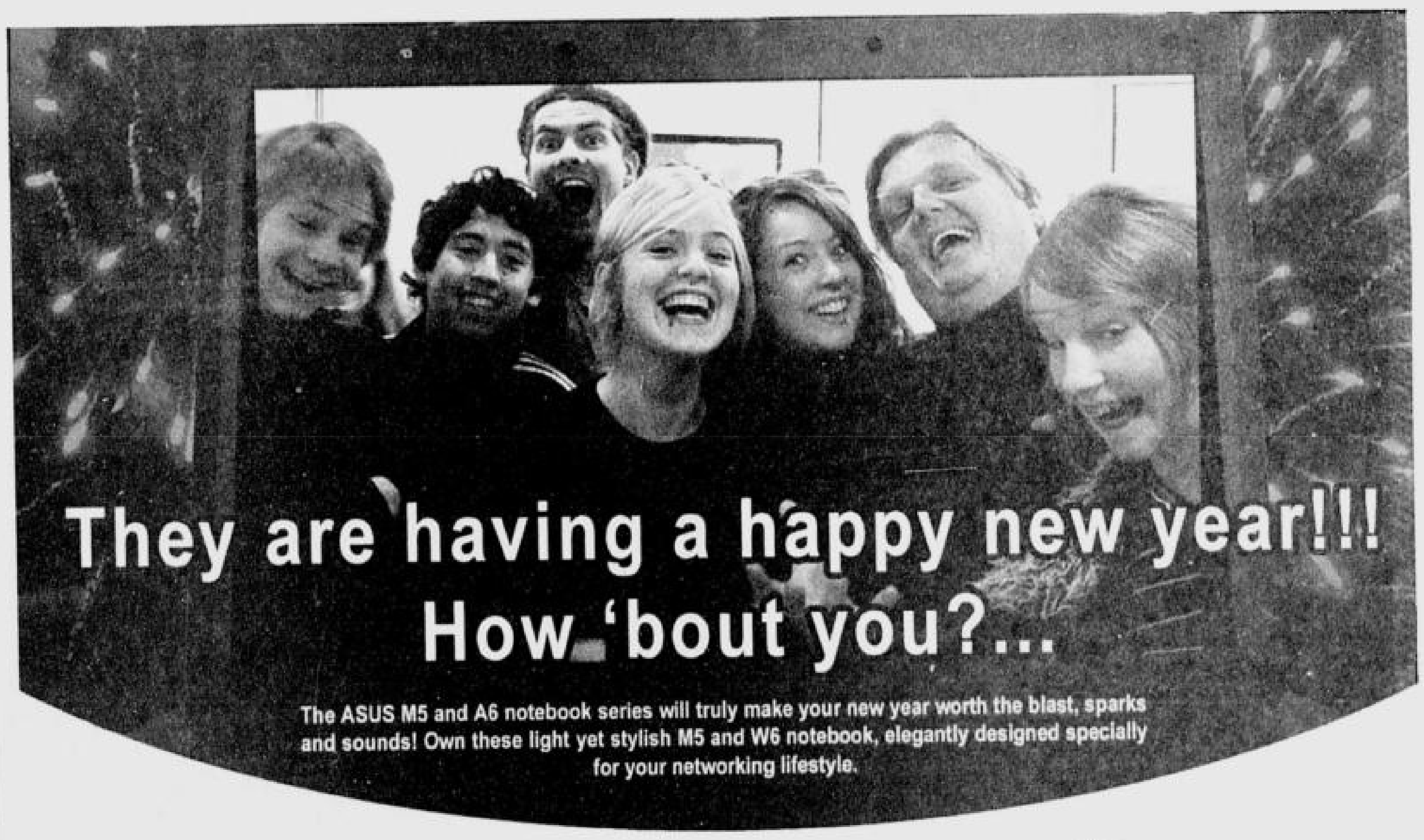
Cleaner Parañaque

Parañaque Mayor Florencio Bernabe has urged owners of industrial and commercial establishments and their workforce to comply with the provisions of Ordinance 04-18, the city's sanitation code, to make Parañaque a healthy and clean place to live in. The ordinance, which takes effect this year, requires all commercial and industrial centers to secure sanitary permits from the local government. It also calls for employees of food establishments, water facilities, public and private markets to secure health certificates. On the other hand, workers in dancing halls, night clubs, massage clinics, sauna baths and music lounges should undergo a health test before they can be issued working or occupational health certificates.

Jocelyn R. Uy

Mass for Palma

All graduates of St. Scholastica's College are invited to attend the Holy Mass for the late Justice Cecilia Muñoz Palma today, Jan. 9, at 10 a.m., at the Mt. Carmel Church in New Manila, Quezon City. Palma is a beloved alumna (HS '31) and the very first PAX awardee of St. Scholastica's College, Manila. St. Scholastica's Priory, its academic community and the St. Scholastica's Alumnae Foundation are one with the family of Celing in their deep sorrow.


They are having a happy new year!!!
How 'bout you?...

The ASUS M5 and A6 notebook series will truly make your new year worth the blast, sparks and sounds! Own these light yet stylish M5 and W6 notebook, elegantly designed specially for your networking lifestyle.

A6
- Intel™ Celeron 1.6 Ghz
- 256 MB DBR2 Memory
- 40 GB HDD
- Black Color
- Built-in DVD/CDRW Combo Drive
- 15" XGA LCD Display
- Lithium-ion Battery Pack
- Wireless LAN 802.11 b/g
- Embedded Intel 855GME/VGA
- 1x RJ45 Jack 4LAN Connection
- 1x RJ11 Modem for Phoneline
- 3 in 1 Smartcard Reader
- 2.85 kg

SRP 49,900
12 months 0% interest

m5
- Intel™ Celeron 1.5 Ghz
- 512 MB
- 40 GB
- 12.1" TFT Screen
- Embedded Intel 855GM VGA
- Combo Drive
- Wireless LAN 802.11 b/g
- 3-in-1 Smart Card Reader

SRP 69,900
FREE Bundle of wireless AP

- Intel™ Centrino Sonoma 1.6 Ghz
- 512 MB DDR RAM
- 40 GB Hard Disk
- 12.1" TFT Active LCD Display
- Embedded Intel 855GM VGA
- Built-in DVD/CD-RW Combo Drive
- Windows XP (Home Edition)
- 3-in-1 Smart Card Reader
- Asus power4 Gear Technology
- Microsoft Works/Trend PC-Cillin Anti Virus
- Intel Pro Wireless 2200LAN BG
- Weight: 1.5 kgs

SRP 89,900
6 months 0% interest
FREE Bundle of wireless AP

- Intel™ Centrino Sonoma 1.73 Ghz
- 512 MB DDR RAM
- 40 GB Hard Disk
- 12.1" TFT Active LCD Display
- Embedded Intel 855GM VGA
- Built-in DVD/CD-RW Combo Drive
- Windows XP (Home Edition)
- 3-in-1 Smart Card Reader
- Asus power4 Gear Technology
- Microsoft Works/Trend PC-Cillin Anti Virus
- Intel Pro Wireless 2200LAN BG
- Weight: 1.5 kgs

SRP 99,900
6 months 0% interest
FREE Edifier 210U

Available in Black color or White color

ASUS SERVICE CENTER:

ASUS WORLD
Cyberzone, 4th Floor
SM Megamall, Bldg. B
(02) 638.2955

TEKZONE
(02) 812-8976

Complink (02) 920-9140 to 41
TCA (02) 637-1200
Silicon Valley (02) 371-5611 to 19
Villman Computer Systems, Inc. (02) 892-2222
Accent Micro 426-9829
NTComputer Mart 633-4690
Premium Logic 633-3295
E-Hub (02) 775-0140 to 41
Electroworld 813-6154
Octagon Computers 635-9007
Times Computer 733-1142 to 43
Compex 711-0288
Microstation 637-1473
Storapple 811-1421 to 25
PC Live 634-2438

Atlantic 893-0408
PC Corner 723-2837
PC Gilmore 722-0184

CEBU
Thinking Tools (032) 254-2227
X-Comp (032) 262 5155 to 57
Wired Systems (032) 255-5282

ILOILO
Concept Iloilo (034) 337-6874

BACOLOD
BCG Computers Bacolod
(034) 434-2532 to 39

For sales inquiries, please email: bci_sales@banbros.ph

Good Design

ASUS®
HEART OF TECHNOLOGY

ANG PINAKA-AABANGAN, PERMANENT SERVICE NA!

UNLIMITED
PLDT to SMART
PLDT to PLDT NDD
P10 per call

Forever na
ang UNLIMITED SAYA!

Subscribe now for only P50/month and enjoy the P10/call UNLIMITED rate.

You may also choose to subscribe to PLDT to PLDT NDD alone for only P20/month.

Now, you can enjoy calling over 20 Million PLDT & SMART subscribers using the PLDT Unlimited offer at its finest - 'di choppy, 'di putol-putol, no congestion, no hidden charges, madaling maka-connect.
UNLIMITED per call ito - kahit gaano katagal ang usapan.
'Di per minute at lalong 'di per second.

And because you are a valued subscriber, free ang first month mo if you register on or before January 31. You can also enjoy the P5/hour PLDT Vibe Internet rate.

TO REGISTER YOUR PLDT LANDLINE
dial 10-10-10
Toll-Free

UNLIMITED CALL SERVICE

PLDT
Iba Pa Rin Ang May PLDT Landline

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 7195, Series of 2005.

- Offer is open to post-paid residential and business subscribers including participating telcos. Call 171 for the list.
- Before registration, please activate your NDD feature via 171. NDD activation is free of charge.
- Unlimited Call rate of P10/call will be reflected in your next bill if you register before your bill cut-off date. Otherwise, regular per minute rates will apply.
- PLDT reserves the right to disconnect your subscription in the event of fraud, violation of existing rules of subscription and as determined by the NTC. To unsubscribe, please call 171.

If you don't want this
Stop Hair Loss Now.
Call Svenson at 892-HAIR

Fiery Cortez rescues Aces in double OT

By June Navarro

STA. LUCIA REALTY SHOULD FIND A quick antidote to Mike Cortez.

GAMES WEDNESDAY
(*Cuneta Astrodome*)
4:40 p.m.—San Miguel Beer vs Air21
7:35 p.m.—Sta. Lucia Realty vs Alaska

Cortez tormented the Realtors with his signature pick-and-roll play and led Alaska to an energy-sapping 108-104 double overtime victory at the start of the San Mig Coffee-PBA Fiesta Conference playoffs last night at the Cuneta Astrodome.

With Odell Bradley on the bench, Cortez took over by firing a career-high 27 points, mostly coming off screens and drives in the extra periods to help the Aces take the opener of the best-of-three wildcard series.

"He (Cortez) was awesome," said Alaska coach Tim Cone. "We kept giving him the pick-and-roll and he made spectacular things out of it."

Cortez actually saved his team from the jaws of defeat twice during regulation and in the first overtime before driving the final nail on the Realtors' coffin in the second extended session with a drive in the lane for a 102-101 Alaska lead.

Dennis Espino rammed his shoulder against Brandon Cablay and was assessed an offensive with 20 ticks left, crushing the Realtors' hopes for good.

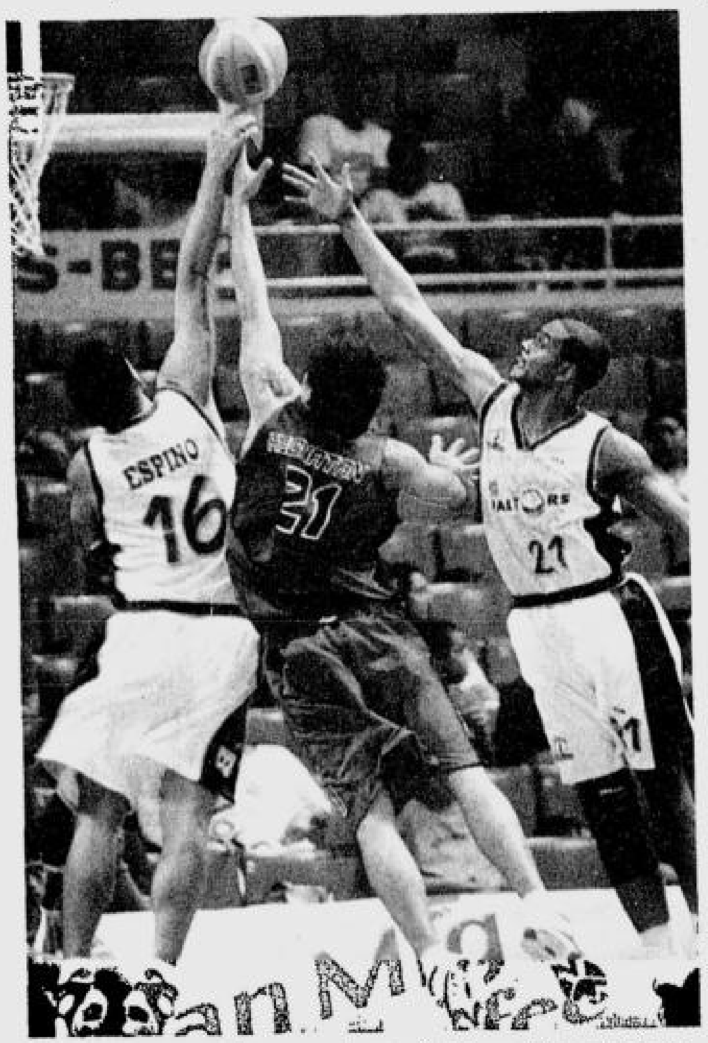
"They (Realtors) can't solve the Mike Cortez puzzle so we just kept on going to him," said Cone. "But I'm pretty sure Game 2 on Wednesday will be much tougher."

Struggling psychologically, Bradley was benched for most of the second half after Sta. Lucia's Nelbert Omolon and Chester Tolomia got into his nerves.

Meanwhile, Air21 survived the ejection of coach Bo Perasol and pulled off a 97-88 victory over a weary San Miguel Beer squad in the second game.

Ronald Tubid completed a four-point play off an Olsen Racela foul and Ranidel De Ocampo canned another three-pointer in the final two minutes as the Express cut loose and took a 1-0 lead in their best-of-three wildcard series.

The Beermen were playing their third game in as many days.



ALASKA'S Reynel Hugnatan (center) drives off Dennis Espino (left) and Damian Owens in last night's game. RYAN LIM

The scores:

First Game

ALASKA 108—Cortez 27, Allado 16, Bradley 13, Cablay 13, Cariaso 12, Thoss 8, Alvarez 7, Hugnatan 6, Dela Cruz 6.

STA. LUCIA 104—Espino 26, Owens 24, Duremdes 21, Cabagnot 17, Omolon 9, Tolomia 6, Aquino 1, Catli 0, Calimag 0, Mendoza 0.

Quarters: 22-18, 42-43, 65-70, 87-87, 94-94, 108-104

Second Game

AIR21 97—Ritualo 20, Daniels 16, R. De Ocampo 16, Tubid 14, Y. De Ocampo 14, David 8, Arboleda 6, Fran 3, Canaleta 0, Ferriols 0.

SAN MIGUEL 88—Seigle 21, Hontiveros 15, Johnson 11, Belasco 10, Peña 9, Ildefonso 8, Lopez 5, Racela 5, Calaguio 4.

Quarters: 29-24, 51-52, 73-73, 97-88

Painters prevail, stay in hunt for semis slot

By Jasmine W. Payo

RAIN OR SHINE BANKED ON A SOLID FIRST-half performance to score an 83-75 decision over Far Eastern Insurance yesterday and boost its bid for an outright semifinal berth in the PBL Heroes Cup at the San Andres Gym.

The Elasto Painters got off to a good start with veteran Jojo Tangkay drilling in seven of his 11 points in the pivotal second period. Gilbert Malabanan finished with a game-high 19 points, while big man Jay-R Reyes chipped in 14.

"We had a good run in the second quarter because of our defense," said coach Caloy Garcia after his Elasto Painters improved to a 6-3 record, just a game behind Magnolia Ice Cream's league-leading 7-2 card.

"Everybody stepped up and that was good because we also need to win our next game."

In the second game, hefty center Ken Bono delivered 18 points on an 8-of-11 shooting to lead Montaña Pawnshop past Granny Goose, 62-53.

While Montaña joined Hapee-PCU in third spot with 5-4 records, Granny Goose slipped to 5-5, in a tie with Harbour Centre. All four teams remain in contention for the outright semifinal slots.

Far Eastern Insurance, which absorbed its seventh loss in 10 games, lost its bid for a quarterfinal stint along with the cellar-dwelling Toyota Otis Knights.

STANDINGS	W	L
Magnolia	7	2
R. or Shine	6	3
Hapee-PCU	5	4
Montaña	5	4
Granny G.	5	5
Harbour	5	5
Far E. Ins.	3	7
Toyota Otis	2	8

GAMES THURSDAY
(*San Andres Gym, Manila*)
2 p.m.—PCU-Hapee vs Montaña Pawnshop
4 p.m.—Rain or Shine vs Magnolia Ice Cream

The scores:

First Game

RAIN OR SHINE 83—Malabanan 19, Reyes 14, Cabatu 13, Tangkay 11, Tan 7, Sta. Maria 5, Ortiguerra 4, Sagad 4, Javier 3, Alastre 2, Robles 1, Enrile 0, Orbeta 0.

FAR EASTERN INS. 75—Coronel 15, Villamin 13, Latoreno 8, Epondulaan 7, Marquez 7, Gamboa 6, Bravo 2, Bonus 2, Gatumbato 0.

Quarters: 22-16, 47-34, 64-56, 83-75

Second Game

MONTAÑA 62—Bono 18, Compton 15, Juntilla 13, Magpayo 6, Capuz 5, Guerrero 3, Bagulon 2, Dela Cuesta 0, Mercado 0, Tolentino 0, Vergara 0, Castro 0.

GRANNY GOOSE 53—Quiñahan 14, Cruz 11, Latonio 6, Gavino 6, David 4, Concha 4, Doruelo 3, Grijaldo 2, Almeda 2, Santos 1, Ibañez 0, Alfad 0, Saladaga 0, Ferrer 0, Pribdhas 0.

Quarters: 21-7, 34-18, 48-39, 62-53

ARROYO

GMA to grace PSA Night after all

NO LESS THAN THE COUNTRY'S NO. 1 SPORTS supporter will cheer and honor the top achievers of 2005 during the Philippine Sportswriters Association (PSA) Annual Awards Night on Jan. 14 at the Manila Pavilion.

President Macapagal-Arroyo graciously accepted, at the last minute, the invitation to be the special guest in the two-hour rites honoring the best and the brightest in sports last year.

She told sports editors last month that she might not be able to attend the affair due to pressing affairs of the state.

Together with the guest of honor, Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, and Philippine Sports Commission chair William "Butch" Ramirez, Ms Arroyo will hand the Athlete of the Year trophy to Team Philippines, which won the Southeast Asian Games overall crown for the first time last year.

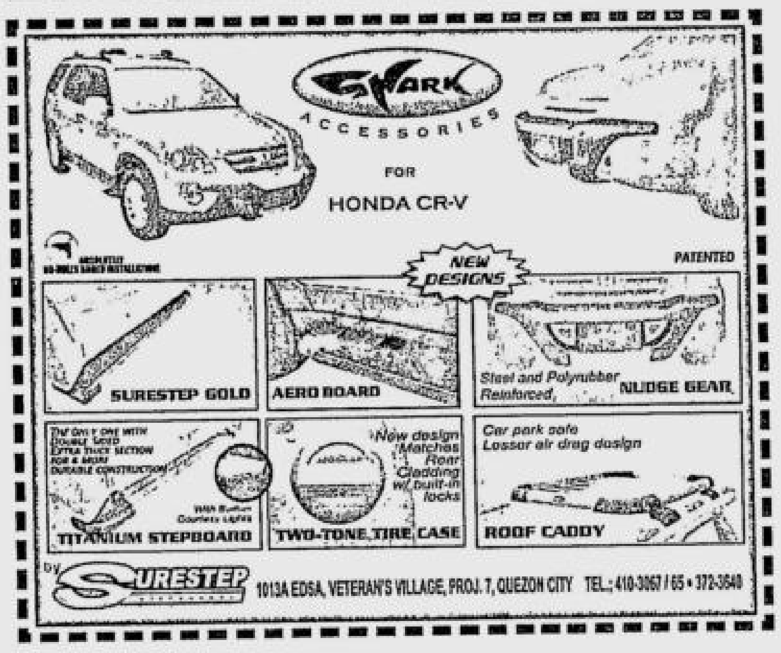
"The presence of no less than President Arroyo makes the affair a truly special night for our athletes," said PSA president Jimmy Cantor.

Pistons off-key versus Jazz A22

It's COOL when it's HOT with DASHIELD
Multi-layered dashboard cover with UV inhibitors
•90% heat reduction on dashboard •guaranteed elegant & effective
•maximizes aircon efficiency •available for most car & van models
1013 EDSA (near Veterans Vill. entrance), Quezon City
Tel nos. 372-3640 • 372-2464 • 374-3636
PATENTED
WHY ARE THEY SO COOL?

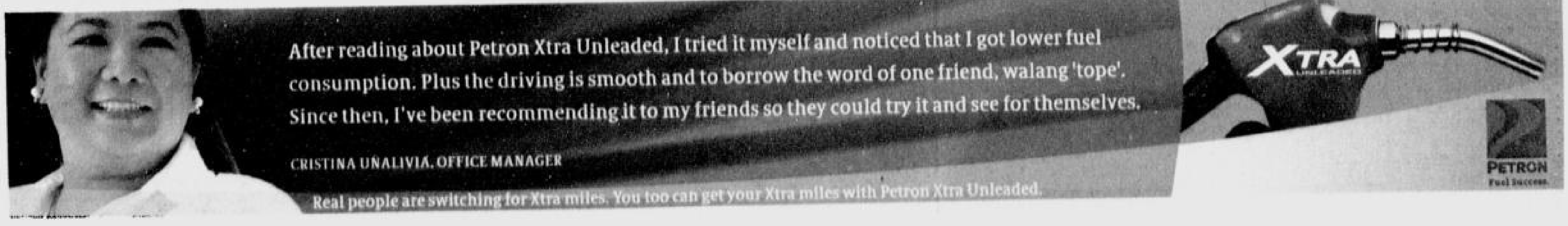
The most requested real estate topic–now on its 25th offering!!
INVESTING IN REAL ESTATE:
Opportunities, techniques & need-to-learn knowledge
January 16, 1:30-6 pm, 2nd Flr., Max's Rest., Glorietta 2, Ayala Cntr, Mkti
SCHEDULE OF OTHER SEMINAR TOPICS (SAME TIME & VENUE)
Jan 17 PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT W/ HLURB RULES & UPDATES
Jan 18 TAXATION ASPECTS OF REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS AND PROPERTY ASSESSMENT
Jan 19 JOINT VENTURES FOR REAL ESTATE PROJECTS
Jan 23 HOW TO START & MANAGE A SUCCESSFUL REALTY OFFICE
Jan 24 LEGAL ASPECT OF SALE, MORTGAGE & LEASE WITH CONTRACT DOCUMENTATION AND REGISTRATION
For more details, call 681-0928 or email: urbanet@pacific.net.ph
Or simply text your name, fax no. or email address to CP# 0916-426-9174
URBAN INSTITUTE OF REAL ESTATE

The Best Truck Body For your Business.
The only ISO 9001:2000 Certified Truck Body Builder in the Philippines.
www.centromanufacturing.com
CENTRO MANUFACTURING CORPORATION
Call us at Tel: 930-0971/ 939-3710
Call or Text: (0917) 349-2217
centromc@edsamail.com.ph
5-STEP METAL TREATMENT (Walang kalawang)
OVEN-BAKED PAINT (No fading, di naninilaw)
100% MACHINE PRESSED (Hindi baluktot ng manlilya)
GRADE A METAL SHEETS
JAPANESE GLASS & RUBBER SEALS
NO RUST LEAKS



SHARK ACCESSORIES FOR HONDA CR-V
NEW DESIGNS
PATENTED
SURESTEP GOLD
AERO BOARD
Steel and Polyrubber Reinforced, NUDGE GEAR
TITANIUM STEPBOARD
New design Matches Rear Cladding w/ built-in locks TWO-TONE TIRE CASE
Car park safe Lesser air drag design ROOF CADDY
by SURESTEP 1013A EDSA, VETERAN'S VILLAGE, PROJ. 7, QUEZON CITY TEL.: 410-3067 / 65 • 372-3640

United Auctioneers, Inc.
INSPECTION DATES: JAN. 23, 24 & 25, 2006
"NO MINIMUM PRICE" 3-DAY PUBLIC AUCTION
"THE BEST AUCTION IN SUBIC BAY!"
AUCTION DATES: JANUARY 26, 27 & 28, 2006
SALE STARTS AT 8:30 A.M. SHARP
ALSO AVAILABLE: LOCALLY ACQUIRED VEHICLES
BLDG. 1455 ARGONAUT HIGHWAY, TEL. NOS: (047) 252-1129 * 252-1155 TO 58 * (02) 920-0810
SUBIC BAY FREEPORT, PHILIPPINES (02) 711-5270 * CEL NOS: (0917) 7262824 * (0917) 8388094
FAX NO.: (047) 252-5569 E-MAIL: uasubic@uai.gotdns.com * WEBSITE: www.uaauctioneers.com
TRUCKS & EQUIPMENT FINANCING AVAILABLE THRU ORIX METRO LEASING & FINANCING CORP. TEL. (02) 858-8888



After reading about Petron Xtra Unleaded, I tried it myself and noticed that I got lower fuel consumption. Plus the driving is smooth and to borrow the word of one friend, walang 'tope'. Since then, I've been recommending it to my friends so they could try it and see for themselves.
CRISTINA UNALIVIA, OFFICE MANAGER
Real people are switching for Xtra miles. You too can get your Xtra miles with Petron Xtra Unleaded.

Pacman vs El Terrible: Lessons from victory and defeat

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

MANNY PACQUIAO, YOU BET, IS STILL AHEAD as far as pre-fight odds go, both here at home and in well-lit Las Vegas.

But after a reality check, Erik Morales appears to enjoy an overall edge in the runup to their monumental rematch on Jan. 21.

It's like this. Pacquiao may not be in Quiapo for today's fiesta procession of the *Mahal na Poong Nazareno*, but many in the great, boiling sea of devotees will bid the miraculous Black Nazarene to grant special blessings to their boxing idol in his bout against his sharp Mexican foe.

Whom will the Black Nazarene bless?

* * *

Pacquiao fans may have not realized it, but the Black Nazarene could also be counted as a Morales compatriot.

The holy image, carved out of dark wood, was transported to Manila straight from Mexico over two centuries ago.

It's also not openly known here, but Pacquiao, a devout Catholic, draws strength and power from the Nazarene in Quiapo.

In January 2005, on the eve of the Black Nazarene fiesta, trainer Buboy Fernandez was overheard by this reporter hollering over the phone from the Hollywood room of Pacquiao to a friend in Manila that a towel be touched onto the miraculous wooden image on behalf of the Pinoy boxing icon.

That towel, based on Buboy's frantic instructions over the phone, could be the one used to wipe out the blood from Pacquiao's gaping cut in his failed bid against Morales in their March 19 showdown in Las Vegas.

With Pacquiao very close to quitting in the 8th round, it's not farfetched to say prayers had also helped him survive the 12-round agony against Morales.

* * *

Now, how come Pacquiao has remained the odds-on pick among the majority of gamblers in his rematch with Morales, despite having lost the first fight? That's not quite normal in the fight game, where the so-called wise money is regularly placed on the winner.

A check with Pacquiao devotees bore out a few factors that swayed bettors over to his side:

1) Unlike last time, Pacquiao will be using thinner punching gloves.

2) Pacquiao won his last fight by knockout; whereas Morales was dull and slow in losing by points in the same card.

3) Pacquiao has definitely learned his lessons from his last encounter with Morales and should be able to make the necessary adjustments.

* * *

Now, here are more tangible points that should give Morales the overall pre-fight edge:

1) Morales has trained longer than Pacman.

2) Morales has sparred almost twice as long as Pacquiao, doing this around 7 p.m., exactly the same time of the actual fight.

3) Morales is coming in from a loss and will predictably come in superbly prepared.

So, will Pacquiao—insisting to spar in the afternoon, instead of simulating the evening fight schedule—prove a disadvantage?

That's hard to answer. His body clock, so says Lito Mondejar, a trusted team member, has been used to the afternoon sparring.

* * *

Of course, there are several other sentimental points that have led adoring countrymen to believe Pacquiao should make it this time. Maybe by knockout in the seventh or eighth round, as many fans out in the streets love to put it.

Meanwhile, Pacquiao's chief handler, American Freddie Roach, swore they have made timely adjustments to fight a better fight the second time around. They call this inevitable advantage "learning from mistakes."

But, again, will this ploy be any better than what Morales has vowed to employ.

You see, the opponent Pacquiao has prepared for now may no longer be the same Morales that had bloodied and beaten him the first time out.

Fighters do learn from the last fight and what could stop Morales from boxing Pacquiao a different way the second time around?

The Mexicans have a name for this: Learning from victory.

Pisto

Duncan says

AUBURN HILLS, MICHIgan—Andrei Kirilenko had 24 points and 11 rebounds, and former Pistons player Mehmet Okur added 13 points and 17 rebounds as the Utah Jazz beat NBA-leading Detroit for the second time this season, 94-90, in overtime Saturday night.

The win gave Utah a season-series sweep of Detroit and almost as many

---

Tanseco top Angler

THE PHILIPPINE Game Fishing Foundation recently named Lito Tanseco as the 2005 Angler of the Year. Tony Espojo and Bong Nery followed at first and second positions, respectively. Tanseco garnered garnered 56.753 kilos while Espojo and Nery have 49.398 and 45.185 kilos, respectively. Light tackle and heavy tackle legs were also dominated by Tanseco and Espejo with the addition of Matt Tayag in the Heavy Tackle leg. The PCTF AOY awarding was held at Somethin' Fishy Restaurant in Libis.

70 fights up in PCAP tilt

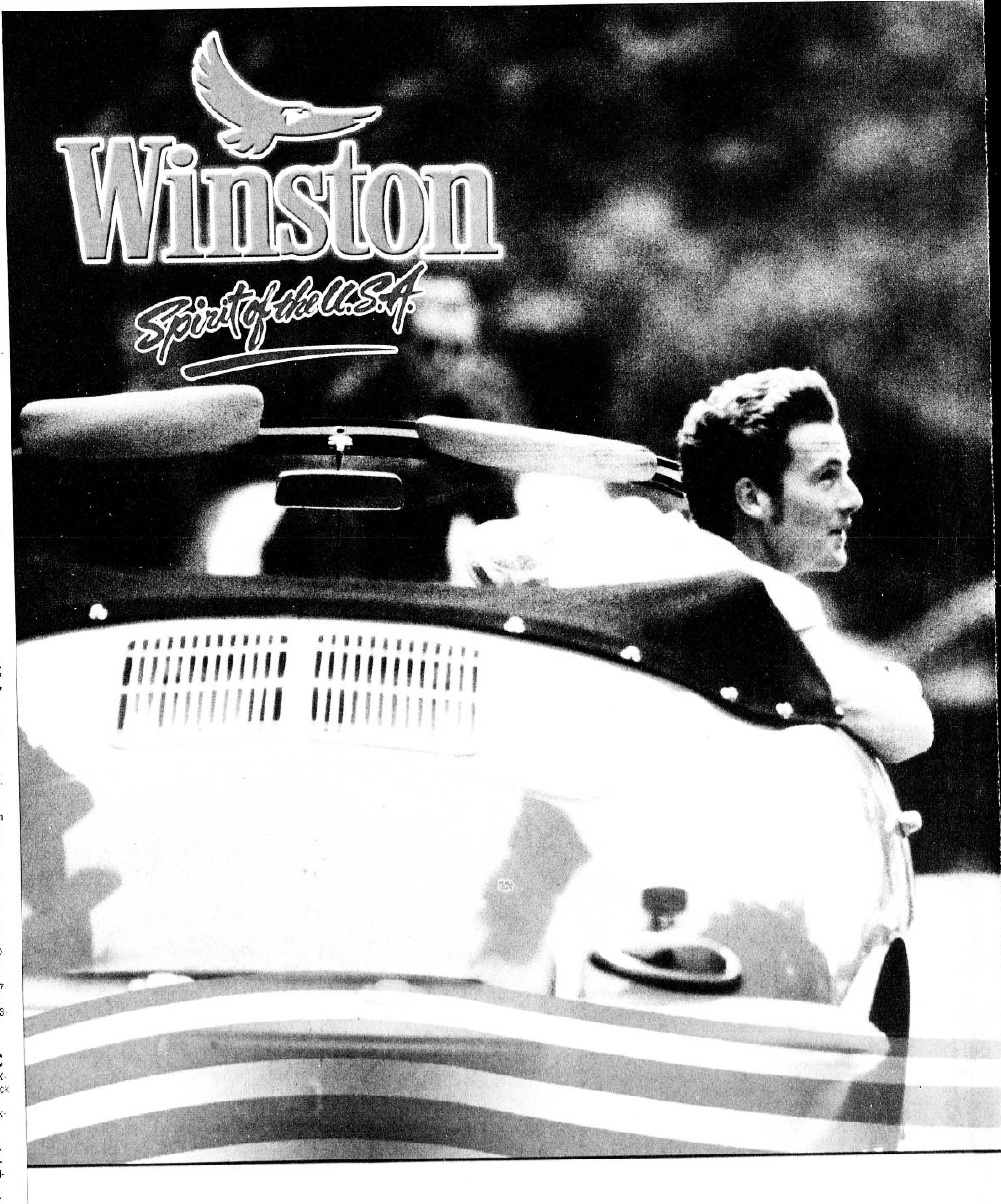
THE MAKATI COLISEUM-based Pinoy Cockers Association of the Philippines (PCAP) will hold a one-day 5-cock derby today featuring 70 fights. Action starts at 5 p.m. The 30-member group has lined 12 5-cock derbies and an 8-cocker to determine the PCAP Cocker of the Year. A total of P2 million awaits the winners. Also slated at the venue is the "FTE Happy Gamefarms 4-cock derby on Thursday with a prize pot of P300,000. For inquiries, call 896-3545 or 895-6475.

6-cock event for 16th year

A SUPER 6-COCK derby offering a cash pot of P4 million will mark the 16th year anniversary of Roligon Mega Cockpit on Jan. 31, Feb. 2, 4, 7 and 9. Entry fee is P11,000 with the fastest win champion getting a brand-new Toyota Innova. Host Rolly Ligon expects more than 400 entries. The venue has received 80 cockhouse reservations. A participant may field an entry during the 2-cock eliminations on Jan. 31, Feb 2 and 4. The semifinals and 4-cock finals are set on Feb. 7 and 9. For inquiries, call 851-2275 or 833-1638.

NCA derby today at SJC

THE NATIONAL COCKers Association 7-Cock Derby kicks off two days of big-time cockfighting today at the San Juan Coliseum with Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as sponsor. The 3-cock eliminations feature 58 fights. The 4-cock finals is on Wednesday. Hosts Danny Valero and Phil Say will compete against a field that includes NCA stalwarts Rene Medina and Ric de Guzman of California, Gov. Ito Ynares, Rep. Butch Pichay, Jun Santiago, Patrick Antonio, Manny Santos and Rudy Albano. For inquiries, call 725-5369 or 0917-8041691.



Government
Cigarette smoking is dan

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

ns off-key vs Jazz

s no to another flag-and-country stint

wins against the Pistons (2) as the rest of the NBA combined (3). The Pistons (26-5), losers for just the second time in 13 games, had their 10-game home winning streak snapped.

Chauncey Billups scored 19 of his 24 points after halftime for Detroit, and Richard Hamilton added 18. Ben Wallace had 16 rebounds.

In other games, Washington nipped Boston, 103-102; Atlanta tripped New Orleans, 101-93; Orlando ripped Charlotte, 108-92; Cleveland clipped Milwaukee, 96-88; Chicago crushed Mamphis, 111-92; Dallas barely survived Minnesota, 83-79; Phoenix surprised San Antonio, 91-86; LA Lakers edged LA Clippers, 112-109.

In Phoenix, Tim Duncan has officially notified USA Basketball that he will not be a part of the US national team that will compete at this year's World Championship and the 2008 Olympics.

Jerry Colangelo, managing director of USA Basketball, said Saturday that Duncan's agent, Lon Babby, had called with the news earlier this week. Because of the call, Colangelo did not meet with Duncan when the San Antonio Spurs came to town this weekend.

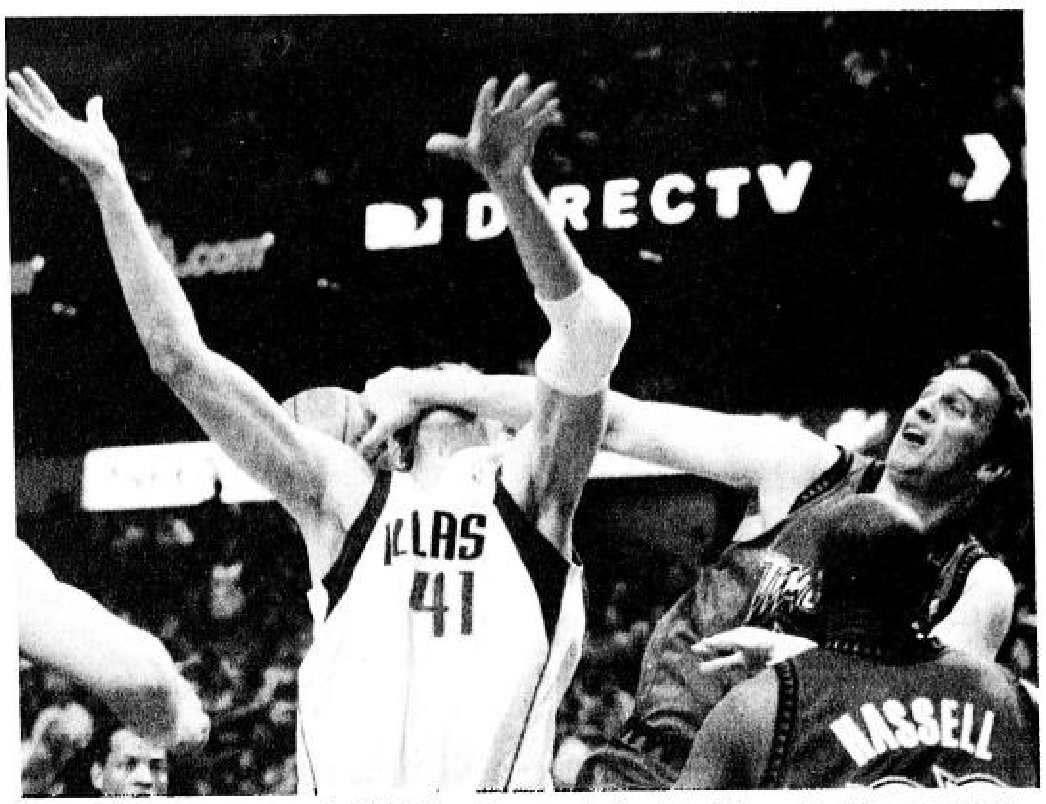
After the Spurs' 91-86 loss to the Suns on Saturday night, Duncan confirmed his feelings on playing for the US team.

"I have no interest in that," he said.

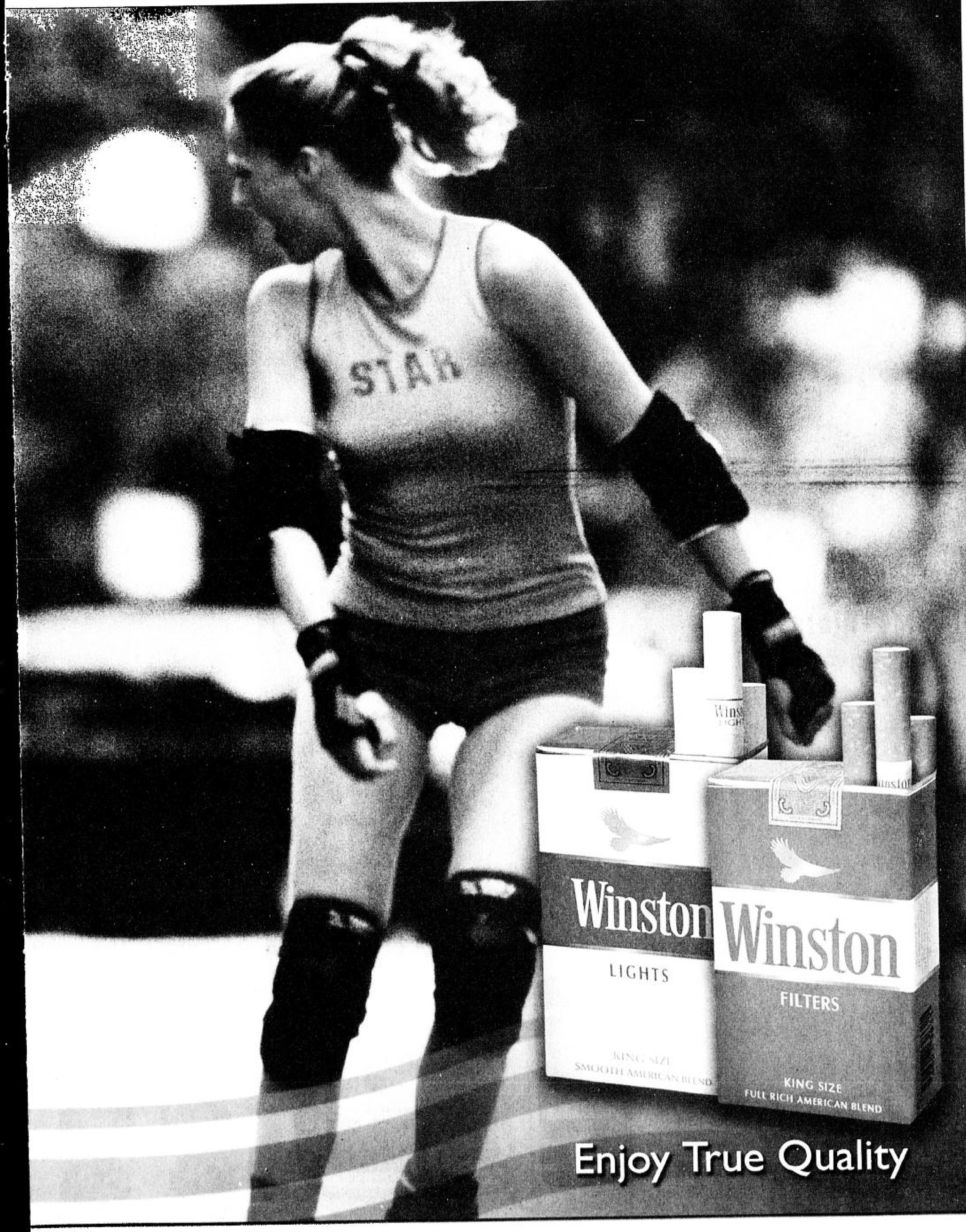
Colangelo, chosen to form a team to bring the US back to world prominence in the sport, is requiring players to make a three-year commitment. The commitment includes a training camp in July, probably to be held in Las Vegas, as well as exhibition games in China and South Korea leading up to the worlds in Japan in August. There will also be another training camp next year.

Colangelo said he has met with 15 to 18 players, and Duncan was the first to say he would not take part. Duncan was part of the US team that won the bronze medal at the 2004 Olympics. *AP*

NBA on TV: Denver vs Houston, 9:30 p.m., Solar Sports (replay 9 p.m.); Miami vs Portland, 7:30 p.m., RPN-9



DALLAS forward Dirk Nowitzki (41) literally gets a taste of the Minnesota defense courtesy of Mark Madsen, who fouls the German superstar in the fourth quarter. AP



Warning:
gerous to your health.

Valencia downs Tribu 5

VALENCIA CITY—Host Valencia Golden Harvest turned back former champion Tribu Sugbu, 70-67, Saturday to gain the top semifinal spot in the 5th Day Charter Open Invitational basketball tournament here.

Mayor Jose Galario Jr.'s Valencia cagers unloaded a 25-9 bomb in the payoff period to deal the Tribesmen their first loss in the tourney serving as the second leg of the Nature's Spring-NBC preseason series.

In the other game of the series backed by Sulpicio, Spring, Molten and Prime Channel, Gov. Manny Pinol's North Cotabato Braves nipped the Aqua World-backed Pagadian Explorers, 73-69.

Semifinal games pitting the Tribesmen of Lito Gillamac and Mario King against the Braves and Valencia against Pagadian were being played at presstime yesterday.

The Scores:

First Game

VALENCIA 70—Navales 13, Ayson 13, Numeran 12, Cruz 8, Taligatos 8, Cesar 5, Berami 3, Cabili 3, Clavel 3, Braga 2, Celiz 0, Adams 0, Romaguera 0

TRIBU 67—Cainglet 15, Almacin 10, Ducay 10, Bucao 9, Nicdao 8, Ursal 5, Calo 4, Sevilla 2, Yabut 2, Butel 2, Luga 0, Mercado 0

Quarters: 16-19, 33-36, 45-62, 70-67

Second Game

NORTH COTABATO 73—Coronado 18, Ramos 15, Clar 11, Martinez 8, Reyes 6, Ligue 4, Del Norte 2, Dagatan 2, Binas 2, Gudes 2, Jawod 2, Cabanog 1, Sansaet 0

PAGADIAN 69—Daja 16, Culdora 8, Isidro 8, Marata 7, Naron 7, Cortez 7, Saludsod 4, Omanadan 4, Sinco 4, Dayota 2, Singidas 2, Pamaran 0

Quarters: 18-18, 32-33, 57-50, 73-69

South hoop tilt slated

THE BASKETBALL ASsociation of the Philippines (BAP) Region IV will be staging the 3rd Southern Tagalog Students Basketball Championship on Jan. 22 to 28, 2006 at the Siniloan Gym in Siniloan, Laguna. Held in cooperation with Siniloan Mayor Hon. Guillermo de Leon Asero, BAP regional director Johnny Tam, regional commissioner Ding Andres, BAP provincial director Gil Tolentino and BAP R-IV general secretary Andrew Ayson, the event will serve as a qualifier for the 60th National Students Basketball Championships in February in Naga City, Camarines Sur.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Zobel stars as Blues rip Blacks

EDWIN BACASMAS

THE GREENS' Jake Zobel (center) makes a clean shot off the Blues' Sonny Borromeo (2) and Hiro Suzuki (right). On the left are Jose Constantino (3) and Alfie Araneta (4).

By Jasmine W. Payo

IÑIGO ZOBEL PULLED OFF A TERRIFIC 10-goal spree as the Blues overwhelmed the Blacks, 17-11, yesterday in the Past Presidents' Cup, the maiden competition of the 2006 polo season at the Enrique Zobel Field of the Manila Polo Club in Forbes Park.

Zobel, who was later adjudged Most Valuable Player, shot three quick goals in the third chukker and strung up another three straight points in the next period of the six-chukker high goal match.

Backstopping the virtually unstoppable Zobel was Tonio Veloso, who chalked up four goals.

Seasoned player Wesley Pitcock spearheaded the Blacks' campaign with six goals, including a string of three in the final chukker.

Earlier, Jose Constantino scored in sudden-death to lead the Greens over the Blues, 7-6, in the low goal match.

Constantino, the Greens' team skipper, actually scored five times in the four-chukker competition.

Jake Zobel and Rosanna Yulo contributed one goal each for the Greens.

Blues captain Hiro Suzuki singlehandedly carried his crew, scoring five of their goals.

Longshot spills No.4 Baldonado

UNSEEDED Andrew Cooney upset no. 4 seed Johnwill Baldonado, 6-3, 6-4, yesterday to reach the 18-under quarterfinals of the 17th Andrada Cup at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center. Cooney will meet No. 5 Jose Lorenzo Opulencia, 6-2, 6-3 winner over Joandel Fernandez, in one of next Friday's last-8 pairings. In other matches, Russell Arcilla Jr. downed Nell Aldrin Erojo, 6-3, 6-2; No. 2 Leyan Moncera routed Mikoff Manduriao, 6-1, 6-2; No. 3 Romel Openiano blasted Richard Boticario, 6-0, 6-0; and Martin Ramos topped Julian Lagman, 6-1, 6-2. In the boys' 16-under play, unranked Homer Paulo Perez ousted No. 5 Raymund Padigos, 6-4, 7-5, to advance against Marlo Espedido, who prevailed over Justin Echague. Other winners were top seed El Santo Santos over Raymarc Santiago, 6-0, 6-0; Mark Balce over Val Aaron Taguinin, 6-0, 6-0; Vincent Atienza over Edwin Olivarez Jr., 7-6, 7-5; and Juan Fidel Regis over Nino Manguiat, 6-0, 6-0. The boys' 14-under quarterfinalists are Mark Cruz, Akio Sy, Kyle Cordero, Roman Floreza, Joseph Baldonado, Juan Gabriel Pena, John Altiche and Roman Lepoutre.

A tieup worthy of praise

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THE BEST EXAMPLE of private support to a worthy sports undertaking is the longtime tieup between the Philippine Sportswriters Association and Photokina Marketing Corp., distributor of leading energy drink Red Bull.

For more than a decade now, the PSA and Photokina have joined hands to bring into focus the current sports issues and give recognition to outstanding athletes and officials, including business firms with hearts of gold through the weekly Sports Forum and the annual PSA Awards Night.

On Saturday night, Jan. 14, the victorious Team Philippines of the recent 23rd Southeast Asian Games will be honored as "Athlete of the Year 2005" during simple awarding ceremonies at the Manila Pavilion. POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco will be the guest of honor and speaker.

This long partnership started in 1994 when I was the PSA president. Through our friend and *kumpadre* Nic Jorge of Milo BEST fame, veteran newsman Gus Villanueva, who is now top gun at the Journal publications and I, were introduced to the soft-spoken George Chua, the Photokina EVP. The partnership has prospered mainly because of mutual respect and honesty.

In the past, the PSA had difficulty raising funds to host the annual Awards Night and the weekly Sports Forum, but Photokina came to the rescue by shouldering the major expenses. As lead sponsor, Photokina pays for the dinner, trophies and part of the television sponsorship. In 1996, the PSA even revived the Fiesta Fistiana, a charity card for destitute and disabled Filipino boxers, and raised close to P1 million. Incidentally, all the proceeds (up to the last centavo) were submitted to an audit by the prestigious accounting firm Sycip, Gorres and Velayo.

The Red Bull team owner has a special place in our hearts for being sincere, fair and thoroughly straightforward.

* * *

NO NEED TO IMPORT FIGHTING COCKS. There is no need to buy from abroad fighting cocks that cost a minimum of $500 per head because these cocks are no longer a guarantee that they will win in big derbies here. Local crossbreeds have been performing better than these imported cocks, as proven by Rey Briones, an esteemed colleague in the defunct Evening Post and now Remate executive.

Fielding his signature bloodlines—the locally-bred Spartan's Fire and Spartan's Blood—Briones emerged double champion in the recent "Pamaskong Salpukan" 6-Cock Derby at the Makati Coliseum.

"My fighting cocks are not for sale," Briones told this writer recently. "I am only in cockfighting because my passion is breeding champion gamefowl." He started breeding fighting cocks in 2003 with only 80 heads in his modest farm in Bacolod City. Today, he has about 2,000 cocks, 1,000 of which are ready to fight.

When he first made his presence felt in the Philippine cockfighting scene by winning the World Slasher Cup in 2003, Briones fielded only locally-bred cocks.

While on the subject of imported fighting cocks, how true is the report that a shipment of 350 three-year-old cocks from the United States arrived recently through a certain Mr. Tan? I gathered that some very influential cockers will be fielding these imported cocks in several international derbies. Did they pay the taxes for such importation?

Little moves mean a lot.
NOKIA
Select

Nokia and Nokia Connecting People are registered trademarks of Nokia Corporation. For full specifications, please refer to www.nokia-asia.com

Small. Smart. Chic.

A mere glance. A tiny gesture. Small actions lead to big impressions. Like the chic slide design of the compact Nokia 6111 that holds a Megapixel Camera with integrated flash, digital zoom and landscape mode. It also offers features like Bluetooth Wireless Technology, Integrated Music Player and FM Stereo Radio, even though it's only the size of a credit card. Think small, live big.

www.nokia.com.ph

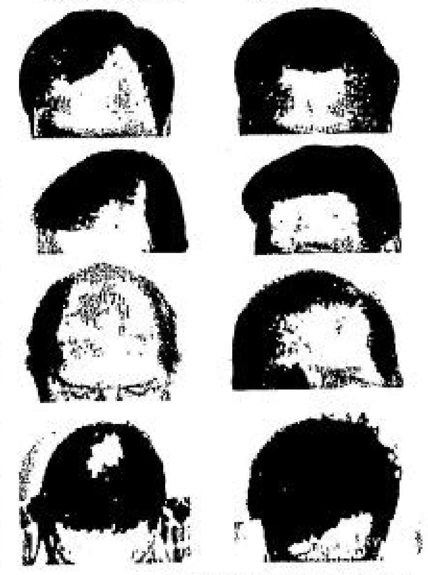
NOKIA 6111

NOKIA
Connecting People

Available at all Nokia Stores and selected Nokia Dealers.

Make sure your new Nokia Mobile Phone comes with original enhancements and is protected by a 12 month warranty on parts and services from Nokia Care. Buy only at authorized Nokia outlets. For inquiries, call the Nokia Careline at (02) 886-1234.

The best hair transplants are meant to be unnoticed!



GET BACK YOUR HAIR-THE PERMANENT WAY

Latest technique in hair restoration surgery to give you back a hairline that looks so natural even your barber will not be able to tell it's a transplant.

- *Multi-unit grafts*
- *Multi-linear hairline grafts*
- *Dense packing up to 3,000 grafts in 1 session*
- *Follicular unit transplant*
- *Trichophytic closure*
- *Airfare reimbursement plan*

Our goal is to achieve the most natural looking hair transplants in *ONE* session. *Call now!*

A. Pineda Medical Clinic
Suite 612 Medical Towers Makati, Rufino Street
Legaspi Village, Makati City
MANILA 8130691 • DAVAO 2212682
www.pinedahair.com

ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback: inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

DUNKIN' DONUTS funsiz!

lahat ng paborito ninyong flavors

P10 each

PRESENTERS Rufa Mae Quinto and Ara Mina are up-front about matters at hand.

MARK Anthony Fernandez and Assunta de Rossi look every inch the Tinseltown denizens that they are.

Cheers and jeers

Smiles for photo-ops during the MMFF awards give way to protests right after

By Marinel R. Cruz and Nini Valera
Photos by Rodel Rotoni

REGAL MATRIARCH LILY Monteverde, who earlier admitted she was behind three of the 10 entries to the just-concluded Metro Manila Film Festival, protested when Canary Films' "Kutob" won over her movies for some of the awards given out on Friday.

President Macapagal-Arroyo handed out P1-million each to the producers of all the entries, to encourage them to come up with more quality movies.

ZsaZsa Padilla insisted that she was the "legal winner" of the Best Actress trophy.

Show biz celebrities cheered and jeered the outcome of this year's filmfest. The awards night was held at the Aliw Theater in Pasay City.

Right after the proceedings, Monteverde questioned the MMFF board of jurors for issuing the previous day a forecast on the most likely winners. She, along with Joel Lamangan, who directed Regal Films' "Blue Moon" and "Ako Legal Wife," accused the MMFF jurors of dishonesty.

A livid Lamangan wailed, "*Napakadumi ng festival na ito!*" The following day, he said during a hastily called Regal press con: "Of course I expected to win! That's why I was

CHEERS/ A2-2

ZSA ZSA PADILLA: "*Ako ang nagwagi!*"

now open
PROMO EXCLUSIVE FOR NE PACIFIC MALL ONLY

NE Pacific Mall
2/F KM. 111 MAHARLIKA HIGHWAY, CABANATUAN CITY
TEL.NO.: (044) 463-5181
PROMO RUNS UNTIL FEBRUARY 20, 2006
PER DTI-NFPD PERMIT NO. 067 SERIES OF 2005

SM Molino
2/F SM SUPERCENTER BRGY. MOLINO 4 MOLINO RD.
BACOOR CAVITE CITY
TEL.NO.: (046) 474-3057

SM Valenzuela
2/F SM SUPERCENTER BRGY. KARUHATAN
VALENZUELA CITY
TEL.NO.: 294-0743

LET'S FACE IT
THE ONE STOP FACIAL SALON

20%off
ON SELECTED SERVICES

SM BACOOR / (046) 970-6322 • SM SOUTHMALL / 800-1291 • FESTIVAL MALL / 771-0448 • ALABANG TOWN CENTER / 807-5411 • BF HOMES PARAÑAQUE / 823-3998 • SM BAGUIO (074) 619-7744 • PAVILLION MALL / (049) 411-3758 • PARKSQUARE / 817-4531 • GREENBELT / 893-1715 • SM MANILA / 527-5896 • ROBINSON'S MANILA / 523-9261 SM CITY SUCAT / 826-5533 • STA. LUCIA EAST GRAND MALL / 647-9354 • ROBINSON'S PLACE LIPA / (043) 757-3589 SM BICUTAN / 777-9282 • SM MEGAMALL / 636-5519 • ROBINSON'S GALLERIA / 687-7710 • SM FAIRVIEW / 935-2875 • SM CITY NORTH EDSA • ROBINSON'S METRO EAST / 646-1721 • TIMOG / 926-7279 • SM CITY PAMPANGA (045) 961-2150 • SM CITY MARILAO / (044) 933-2173 • SM CITY CENTERPOINT / 715-6119 • HARRISON PLAZA / 536-5100 • GREENHILLS / 722-2129 920-3152 • GRAND CENTRAL / 366-6697 • LFI- CIRCLE C / 928-0495 • TUTUBAN / 256-4300 • ALI MALL / 995-8996 SM DASMARIÑAS (046) 432-3094 • MAKATI CINEMA SQUARE / 844-2129 EVER COMMONWEALTH / 952-7339 • SM CITY LUCENA / (042) 373-4411 • SM CITY BATANGAS / 885-6357 • CORBY BLDG. LIBIS / 634-2223 • CITY MALL, OLONGAPO / (047) 223-3851 STA. LUCIA 2nd branch 645-0995 • GREENBELT 1 / 815-1201 • FBR KATIPUNAN / 434-9035 • SM SAN LAZARO / 786-2524 TO 25

NOW OPEN: SM SAN LAZARO / 786-2524 TO 25 • FBR KATIPUNAN / 434-9035
SOON TO OPEN: SM ILOILO • MALL OF ASIA • SM STA.ROSA

Looks Natural
No Allergic Reaction
Fast

PERMANENT COSMETICS
Eye brow • Eyeliner • Lipstick

Beauty Enhanced Permanently

Ellen's
Celebrating 26 years of beauty . . .

TIMOG • WEST AVE. • LIBIS • MANILA • LAS PIÑAS • ANGELES • SAN FERNANDO • TARLAC • OLONGAPO • CAVITE • CEBU
CALL: 374 6665 - 438 8072 - 413 6357 - 740 3242 - 805 5626 - CEBU: (032) 255 0674

Globe HANDYPHONE
PLANTRONICS. SOUND INNOVATION
Nestlé FoodServices Total Office Coffee Solutions

Presents

CCAP
Contact Center Association of the Philippines

Call Center Jammin'06
Battle of the Bands

Can you rock?!?

Does your call center have the hottest rock band? Then join the battle of the bands for the call center industry and win cash and other prizes. Best of all, your band can claim the title of the best call center band of the year!

Prizes
Grand prize: P150,000 in cash and in kind
2nd Prize: P50,000 cash
3rd Prize: P30,000 cash

• Elimination round •
January 15, 2006 4pm
Glorietta Activity Center

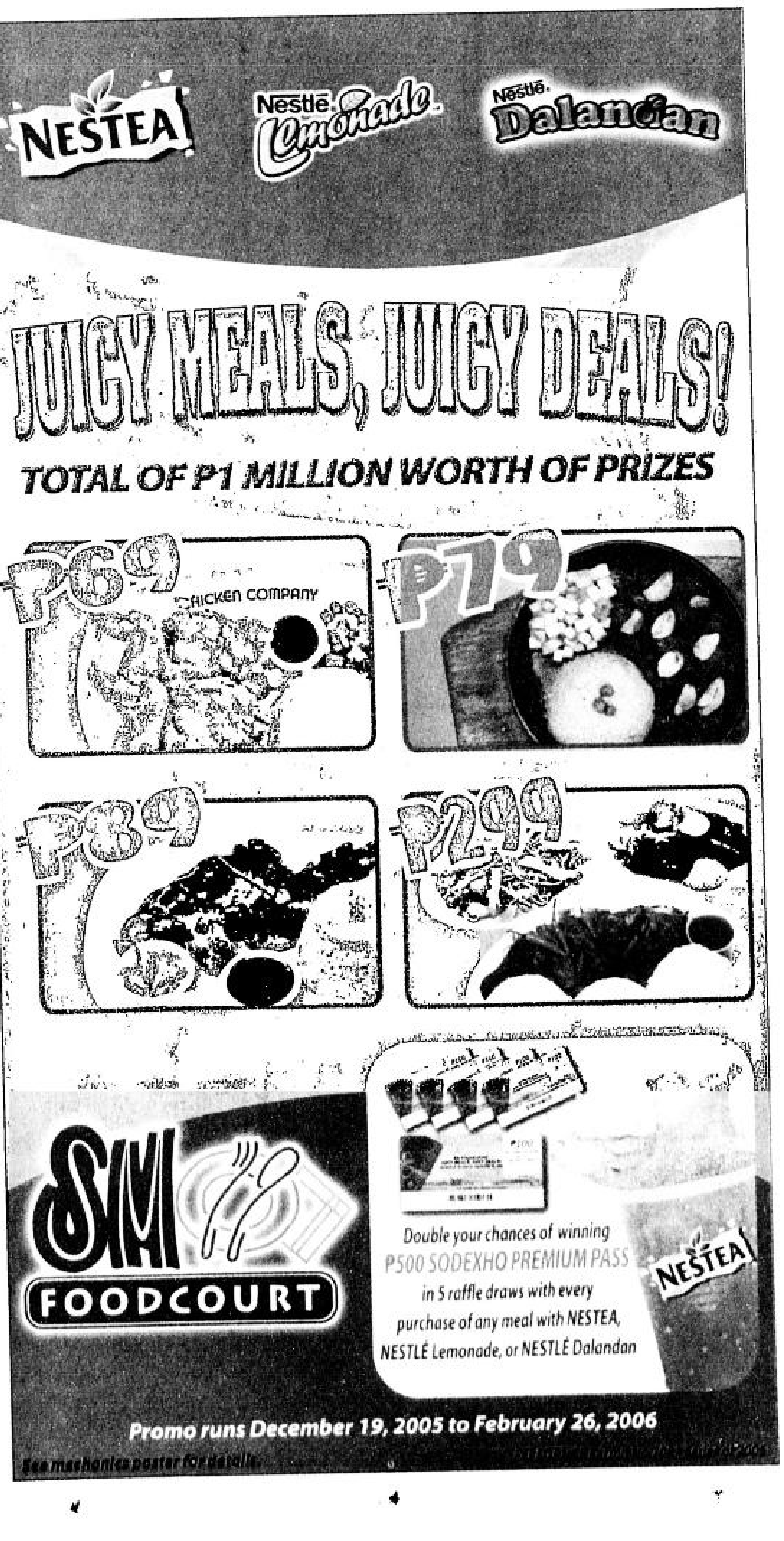
In Cooperation with
MEFENAMIC ACID GARDAN 250 mg Capsule
Maalox®

Media Partner
INQUIRER

Web Designer
fusemediagroup

Organized by
MEDIA FOCUS International Inc.

For more information, contact your HR Director or the CCAP Secretariat Office at 17th Floor, Rm. 17-O, Burgundy Coporate Tower, #252 Sen. Gil Puyat St., Makati City, Philippines • Tel. Nos. 886-4421, Telefax No. 886-4407, 889-7763 or e-mail us at dlmediafocus@yahoo.com/ admin@mediafocus.com.ph


NESTEA Nestlé Lemonade Nestlé Dalandan

JUICY MEALS, JUICY DEALS!
TOTAL OF P1 MILLION WORTH OF PRIZES

P69 P79 P89 P299

SM FOODCOURT

Double your chances of winning P500 SODEXHO PREMIUM PASS in 5 raffle draws with every purchase of any meal with NESTEA, NESTLÉ Lemonade, or NESTLÉ Dalandan

Promo runs December 19, 2005 to February 26, 2006

See mechanics poster for details.

Cheers and jeers

From page A2-1

there [at Aliw]. The selection process [is] full of loopholes and full of biases." He added that he "smelled" politics.

Lamangan lost to Joey Reyes, who was named Best Director for "Kutob." (Lamangan revealed that, during the cocktails held before the program rites, two jurors told him that he had won).

He reiterated that he was against the judging process, not against Reyes or "Kutob." The Best Director should go hand in hand with Best Story, Best Screenplay and other major awards, Lamangan maintained. He demanded a revamp of the board of jurors whose composition, he said, had remained the same for at least 25 years.

Just a forecast

On Jan. 5, the INQUIRER published the story, "Top contenders for MMFF awards," quoting MMFF official and juror Wilson Tieng. He predicted a Best Actor win for Marvin Agustin and Best Director for Joey Reyes (he was right). He also said "Kutob" star Rica Peralejo was a "dark horse" for Best Actress.

Tieng told INQUIRER Entertainment by phone on Saturday: "It was just a forecast. I did not reveal the identities of the jurors. I didn't even say I was among the jurors. I kept that bit of information a secret until the deliberation was over."

CHEERS/ A2-5

MARVIN AGUSTIN, Best Actor: "I worked hard for this."

RICHARD Gutierrez, above left, is Male Star of the Night. His mother would rather he won for "Mulawin." Right, Lily Monteverde accepts Best Picture award for "Blue Moon." Her joy would be short-lived.

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
6th floor Shangrila Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
Telephone: 633 2227 *6337851 loc 171
1 (DOLBY) CHRONICLES OF NARNIA GP
2 (DOLBY) CHRONICLES OF NARNIA GP
3 (DOLBY) FAMILY STONE PG13
4 (DOLBY) KING KONG PG13
PREMIERE
(DOLBY) CHRONICLES OF NARNIA GP

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DDS) ST. ANGE
2 (SDDS) KING KONG
3 (DTS) THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
4 GOLD (DTS) FAMILY STONE
5 GOLD THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
6 GOLD THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
7 GOLD (DOLBY) DON'T GIVE UP ON US
8 (DOLBY STEREO) DON'T GIVE UP ON US
9 (DOLBY STEREO) ENTENG KABISOTE -2
10 (DOLBY STEREO) AKO LEGAL WIFE

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) FAMILY STONE
2 (DOLBY) CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
3 (DOLBY) CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
4 (DOLBY) KING KONG

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 KING KONG
2 (DTS) DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 (DOLBY) THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
4 EXODUS

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall (Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
2 (DOLBY) THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
3 (DTS) ENTENG KABISOTE-2
4 EXODUS

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix (Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 (DOLBY) KING KONG

Cinema 2000 Metrotown (Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 AKO LEGAL WIFE
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 (DOLBY) EXODUS
4 (DTS) KING KONG

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 KING KONG
2 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
3 (DOLBY) DON'T GIVE UP ON US

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Gapan)
1 KING KONG
2 MULAWIN

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 KING KONG

Blue Wave MARQUINTON
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 (DOLBY) THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2 (DOLBY) KING KONG
3 (DOLBY) THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
4 (DOLBY) DON'T GIVE UP ON US

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228
1 (DOLBY) KING KONG
2 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 EXODUS
5 ST. ANGE

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph (Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
3 DONT GIVE UP ON US
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) NARNIA
5 KING KONG

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 KING KONG
4 ENTENG KABISOTE-2

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
2 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
3 ENTENG KABISOTE-2

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433994
1 ENTENG KABISOTE -2
2 DONT GIVE UP ON US
3 KING KONG
4 NARNIA

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2 KING KONG

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) EXODUS
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 (DTS EX) THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
4 ENTENG KABISOTE-2

NE Pacific Mall Cabanatuan, Telephone No. (044) 600-3025
1 AKO LEGAL WIFE
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 ENTENG KABISOTE -2

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
2 AKO LEGAL WIFE
3 (DOLBY) THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
4 (DTS) ENTENG KABISOTE-2

Lianas Cinema (Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 KING KONG
2 ENTENG KABISOTE-2

Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) KING KONG
2 EXODUS
3 ENTENG KABISOTE-2
4 (DTS) DON'T GIVE UP ON US

Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) KING KONG
2 EXODUS
3 (DTS) THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
4 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
5 ENTENG KABISOTE-2

Cinemagic Pacific Mall
(Lucena City) tel. 6605271
1 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
2 AKO LEGAL WIFE
3 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
4 KING KONG

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489
1 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
2 AKO LEGAL WIFE
3 (DOLBY) THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
4 (DTS) THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 KUTOB
4 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 ENTENG KABISOTE-2
2 SHAKE RATTLE & ROLL

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 EXODUS
2 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

ROUNDUP

Pampi III

ACTRESS Jodi Sta. Maria is naming her firstborn son Panfilo Lacson III after her husband and his father, Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

In text messages she sent to a friend in ABS-CBN, Jodi said "Thirdie" weighed in at 7.3 lbs and was 19.5 inches long when he was born at the Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, California last Dec. 23 at 7:46 a.m., West Coast time.

Jodi said she gave birth by normal delivery after a 15- to 20-minute labor.

"Pampi was with me all the way," she said, referring to her husband. "He cut [the umbilical cord]."

Nini Valera

Lou Rawls, 72

LOS ANGELES—Lou Rawls, the velvet-voiced singer who started as a church choir boy and went on to record such classic tunes as "You'll Never Find Another Love Like Mine," died Friday of cancer. He was 72.

Rawls died at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, where he was hospitalized last month for treatment of lung and brain cancer, said his publicist, Paul Shefrin. His wife, Nina, was at his bedside.

Rawls' deep, smooth voice was his trademark, and he used it in a variety of genres. "I've gone the full spectrum, from gospel to blues to jazz to soul to pop," Rawls once said on his Web site. "And the public has accepted what I've done through it all."

AP

Hall of fame

VIDEO CITY, a leading video rental chain, was named 2005's Outstanding Filipino Retailer-Services by the Department of Trade and Industry and the Philippine Retailers Association. The rental chain was inducted into the Hall of Fame for winning two years in a row. Joseph Edward Singian, Video City general manager, accepted the award.

'Direk' De Niro

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic—Robert De Niro met Friday with the president of the Dominican Republic at the beginning of his stay in the Caribbean island where he is filming scenes for his latest movie.

De Niro, 62, will film some scenes for "The Good Shepherd" in the presidential palace, which he toured with President Leonel Fernandez.

"The Good Shepherd" recounts the history of the CIA. Matt Damon plays James Wilson, one of the spy agency's founders; Angelina Jolie plays his wife.

Damon has arrived in the country, and Jolie was expected over the weekend. *AP*

NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP.
The first documented case of Demonic Disturbance in Europe
VIRGINIE LEDOYEN
SAINT ANGE
BASED ON A TRUE STORY

ARANETA CENTER
Gateway Alimall FarmersPlaza
THE ONLY CINEPLEX IN THE COUNTRY
Gateway CinePlex*10
FULL STADIUM SEATING

KING KONG 12:00 / 2:20 / 3:40 / 6:00 / 7:20 / 9:40
DON'T GIVE UP ON US 12:20 / 2:40 / 5:00 / 7:20 / 9:40
BLUE MOON 12:30 / 2:40 / 5:00 / 7:20 / 9:40
AKO, LEGAL WIFE 1:40 / 4:20 / 7:00 / 9:40
FAMILY STONE 12:20 / 2:40 / 5:00 / 7:20 / 9:40
NARNIA 11:50 / 1:10 / 2:40 / 4:00 5:30 / 6:50 / 8:20 / 9:40
ST. ANGE 12:50 / 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:30
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX
GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
NARNIA 12:30 / 3:20 / 6:10 / 9:00
ONLY P120 ADMISSION
GLOBE PLATINUM P249:P299

Alimall CINEMAS
1 DON'T GIVE UP ON US 1:30 / 3:50 / 6:10 / 8:30
2 NARNIA 12:00 / 2:40 / 5:20 / 8:00
3 KING KONG 1:10 / 4:50 / 8:30
4 ST. ANGE 1:55 / 4:05 / 6:15 / 8:25
5 EXODUS
DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS
For ticket inquiries, please call TicketNet at 911-5555 or log on to www.ticketnet.com.ph

ARANETA COLISEUM
WORLD SLASHER CUP JANUARY 17, 19 & 21
BACKSTREET BOYS NEVER GONE TOUR JANUARY 20 FRIDAY/8PM

PG-13 Children 12 years and below will be admitted if accompanied by an adult.
FROM ACADEMY AWARD WINNING DIRECTOR PETER JACKSON
BACK IN THEATERS DUE TO INSISTENT PUBLIC DEMAND!!!
4th HIT WEEK!
KING KONG IS A GIGANTIC ACHIEVEMENT, HANDS DOWN THE BIGGEST SPECTACLE OF THE YEAR!!!
- Vives Anunciacion, Inquirer Libre
KING KONG
NAOMI WATTS JACK BLACK ADRIEN BRODY
NOW SHOWING NATIONWIDE
AN EPIC ADVENTURE CLASSIC FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!
Solar Entertainment Corporation

BEST PICTURE
Blue Moon
Regal Entertainment Inc.

GATPUNO ANTONIO J. VILLEGAS
CULTURAL AWARD
Kutob
Canary Films

SECOND BEST PICTURE
Exodus
Imus Productions

THIRD BEST PICTURE
Kutob
Canary Films

BEST DIRECTOR
Jose Javier Reyes
Kutob

BEST SCREENPLAY
Alan Tijamo
Blue Moon

BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY
Exodus

BEST ORIGINAL STORY
Alan Tijamo
Blue Moon

BEST EDITOR
Vito Cajili
Kutob

31ST METRO MANILA FILM FESTIVAL WINNERS

WE CELEBRATE YOU.

KODAK IS PROUD TO SALUTE YOUR ACHIEVEMENT.
Thank you for sharing your vision and showing us all that film can be.

Kodak
Motion Picture Film

METROPOLITAN MANILA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
MMDA

MBC MANILA BROADCASTING COMPANY

DZRH

90.7 LOVE RADIO

YES FM 101.1

ALIW THEATER

CONGRATULATE THE WINNERS OF THE

The 31st Metro Manila Film Festival Philippines 2005

BEST ACTOR
MARVIN AGUSTIN
KUTOB

BEST ACTRESS
ZSA-ZSA PADILLA
AKO LEGAL WIFE

BEST PICTURE
1. BLUE MOON
GOOD HARVEST PRODUCTION
2. EXODUS
IMUS PRODUCTIONS
3. KUTOB
CANARY FILMS

BEST DIRECTOR
JOSE JAVIER REYES
KUTOB

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS
CHERRIE PIE PICACHE
AKO LEGAL WIFE

BEST EDITOR
VITO CAJILI
KUTOB

BEST MUSICAL SCORE
JAIME FABREGAS
KUTOB

BEST ORIGINAL THEME SONG
KASALANAN NGA BA
KUTOB

BEST ORIGINALSTORY
ALLAN TIJAMO
BLUE MOON

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR
JOSE MANALO
ENTENG KABISOTE

BEST SOUND RECORDING
DITOY AGUILA
EXODUS

BEST MAKE-UP ARTIST
BIBOY LUCERO
EXODUS

BEST PRODUCTION DESIGN
RICHARD SOMES
EXODUS

GATPUNO ANTONIO J. VILLEGAS CULTURAL AWARD
KUTOB
CANARY FILMS

BEST CHILD PERFORMER
PAUL SALAS
SHAKE, RATTLE & ROLL

BEST VISUAL EFFECTS
IGNITE MEDIA, INC.
EXODUS

BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY
LYLE SACRIS
EXODUS

BEST SCREENPLAY
ALLAN TIJAMO
BLUE MOON

in cooperation with:

HOPE The luxury cigarette · TANDUAY THE NO. 1 RUM · Kodak Motion Picture Film · Kremil-S · EASTWESTBANK · Bacchus · Circulan · GEOX BREATHES · PETRON REV-X · TEAM LBC HARI NG PADALA! · PHILIPPINE CHARITY SWEEPSTAKES OFFICE

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

Monday, January 9, 2006

ALL NEW SEASON
THE APPRENTICE
MONDAY 10PM

SEE IT FIRST ON ABC

ALL NEW SERIES
THE APPRENTICE
Martha Stewart
TUESDAY 10PM

Provided by ClickTheCity.com

For more TV schedules:
1. Visit www.ClickTheCity.com or wap.clickthecity.com.
2. Key in CTC TV and send to 2333 for Globe and to 225 for Smart. PhP2.50 per SMS sent.

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5			Winner TV Shopping		Speed		TNA Impact		Sentro	Friends	Guinness Book Of Record		Fear Factor		Big News	The Apprentice		Totoo TV	
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Little Amy	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Amazing Twins	Motor Garden Season 2	TV Patrol World	Pilipinas Game KNB?	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Only You	Vietnam Rose	Pinoy Big Brother	OK Fine! Whatever			Insider
AXN		SWAT Police			Maximum Exposure (Season II)		E Buzz	PSI Factor (Season III)		24 (Season 2)		The 4400	-	The 4400 (Season 2)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 4)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 4)	
Cartoon Network	Johnny Bravo	Dexter's Laboratory	Powerpuff Girls	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Codename: Kids Next Door		The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy		Power Rangers Wild Force	The Gransazers	Battle B-Daman	Machine Robo-Rescue	X-Men Evolution	Samurai Jack	Justice League	Static Shock	Power Rangers Wild Force	The Gransazers
Cinema One		Gaano Kadalas Ang Minsan				Kahit Isang Saglit				Shutter				Madrasta				Hostage	
Cinemax				The Last Hurrah				Lady Killer (6:15PM)				Wyatt Earp						Father's Day (11:05PM)	
CNN				Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International		World News Asia		World News	Living Golf	World News Asia		World News	World Sport
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Lilo & Stitch	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			So Little Time		Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN						FA Cup Highlights		Boxing Series Friday Night Fights				Sportscenter Asia	NFL Playoffs AFC Wildcard						Sportscenter Asia
EWTN	Benediction And Devotion Encore	Angelus (3:15PM)	Bible Treasure Chest	Image Of God	St. Thomas More Faithful Statesman	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Voices On Virtue	EWTN Gallery	The Catholic Faith & Vatican II	Sunday Night: With (Encore) Fr. Benedict Groeschel		Threshold Of Hope		Daily Mass (SAP) Live		Angelus (10:15PM)	Defending Life	Catholic Compass	
Fox News		Fox Report Sunday		Beltway Boys	Fox News Watch	Bulls & Bears	Cavuto On Business	Forbes On Fox	Cashin' In	Fox & Friends				Fox News Live					
GMA 7	Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako	Now and Forever	Date With Tiffany		Dragonball Z	Slam Dunk	Frog Prince	24 Oras		Extra Challenge	Sugo	Etheria	Starstruck 3	Jewel In The Palace/Lagot Ka, Isusumbong Kita			Saksi		
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched IV			HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Who's The Boss	Bewitched IV	The Nanny III	Changi		Wife Swap III					McLeod's Daughters IV		Wire In The Blood
HBO		A Promise Kept			No Big Deal			A Very Brady Sequel			Deep Shock			13 Going On 30			Fatal Attraction		
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Krusada Kontra Krimen		Home Shopping Network		ME TV					IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	The Late Show With David Letterman		Bottomline		Afterburn		Samurai Jack	Beat The Geeks	Mad TV		That 70s Show	Arrested Development	The Late Show With David Letterman		Jack In The Box			
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Food 911	E! Extra Ultimate Hwood Blonde		NY Fashion Week	Life & Style		Living Space	Style Star	Breathing Room	Genuine Article
MTV Philippines	Rockola	MTV Ask	Chart Attack		Viva La Bam	Pop Inc		MTV Hits				Massive	Get Spotted	TRL		The 70's House	Wild N' Out	Homecoming	VH1 Video Collections
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	OPM MYX	MYX Firsts	Star MYX	MYXLOG	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten			Mobile MYX Top Picks	Urban MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX
National Geographic		Dangerous Encounters		Bug Attack		Snake Wranglers	Totally Wild	Top 5		Wow!		About Asia		National Geographic Specials		Dangerous Encounters		Wild Sex: Deviants?/Macho Males/Femme Fatales/Swingers	
NBN		Value Vision		New Life TV Shopping		Teledyaryo	Diyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sila?	Tinig ng Bayan (Live)				Teledyaryo				Dial M		Bantay OCW With Susan K	
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues	Rugrats	Hey Arnold!	My Life As A Teenage Robot	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	SpongeBob SquarePants	Fairly Odd Parents	All That	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	Drake & Josh	The Fairly Odd Parents	All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	Chalkzone	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	The Brothers Garcia
PBO			May Lamok Sa Loob Ng Kulambo				Kalahating Araw Sa Impiyerno				Ang Syota Kong Balikbayan				PS I Love You				Lagablab Sa Paraiso
Qtv		Bodyguard	Striker Hungry Heart	The Prince Of Tennis	MMS (My Music Station)		Moms		Star	Hotelier	All In	Laugh To Laugh: Ang Kulit	H3O Hahaha... Over!		News On Q	Liga Ng Kababaihan		Groupee TV	
RPN 9	TV Shopping		Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	As Told By Ginger	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	Scare Tactics	NBA On RPN					Newswatch Now	Simple Life 2	Cerge For Truth	
SBN 21				New Life TV Shopping				Winner TV Shopping				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Sony Bmg Video			
Solar Sports		Fight	WTA 2005 Tour Chmps by LA Finals							Sagupaan		Sportsdesk	NBA Jam	NBA Game Nuggets @ Rockets					NBA Inside Stuff
Sports Plus		Pac 10 TBD				Ultimate Fighting Championship				AFC and NFC Wild Card Playoffs						Mercedes Championship Final			
Star Movies	Alex & Emma			Dark Harvest (4:05 PM)			Calendar Girls			Out Of Time (7:15 PM)				Laws Of Attraction			Heaven's Pond (10:35PM)		
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Whose Line Is It Anyway?	Angel		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Friends	My Wife And Kids	Everybody Loves Raymond	King Of Queens	Becker	Monk		Friends	My Wife And Kids
Studio 23		Yugioh Duel Monster						Get Backers	Spirits	Wazzup Wazzup	The Swan Season 2		Tru Calling (8:20 PM)	Charmed (9:10 PM)		News Central	The West Wing		Travel Time

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Ang inyong tagapaghatid ng ulat-pangmulat
alas-10 ng gabi na! Tuwing Huwebes
Ating kabalitaan
Cheri Mercado
Dito lang sa ABC
INQ TV

Cheers and jeers

From page A2-2

In a press statement, Monteverde demanded an explanation, "from this juror on comments he made to the press, which [seemed] to indicate bias and partiality."

Monteverde is also the producer of the horror trilogy "Shake, Rattle & Roll 2K5." "Mulawin The Movie" is a co-production between GMA Network Films and Regal Entertainment. Monteverde's son, Dondon is one of the co-producers of "Exodus: Tales from the Enchanted Kingdom."

Tieng pointed out: "I expressed my personal opinions, not the jurors'."

Monteverde appeared to be particularly peeved about "Kutob" winning the Gatpuno Antonio Villegas Cultural Award. "[The movie] talks about nothing but murder and cruelty," she lamented. "*Puro lang patayan.*"

Canary Films producer Orly Ilacad said he was willing to return the trophy. "They can take it back," he told INQUIRER Entertainment during a phone interview on Saturday. "I did not solicit the award. It was just given to us."

"*Walang personalan,*" Reyes said also on Saturday. "I don't have to explain why I won."

But Agustin defended his trophy: "I worked hard for this."

Annabel's beef

On the other hand, in an interview on the show biz program "Startalk," Annabel Rama, mother of "Mulawin" lead actor Richard Gutierrez, accused Monteverde of "manipulating" the results.

"Mulawin" had won nothing, in spite of the fact that it was the only entry rated A (for quality) by the Cinema Evaluation Board.

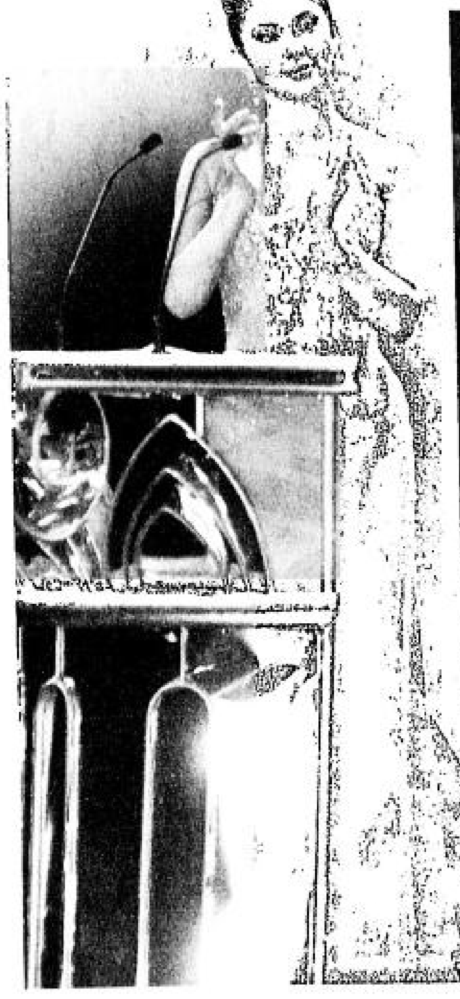
Monteverde's retort: "Annabel is one of the most misunderstood persons around. I forgive her."

The Regal matriarch said she would stop joining the film fest if no "changes in the system" were effected soon.

"I have been in this business for more than 40 years," she said, "and I have kept this in my heart. But now, I am going for justice. We are under a certain syndicate. I cannot prove it, but I feel it in my heart that there is some kind of Mafia [running the movie industry]. I couldn't voice this out [earlier] because I was afraid they would not let me join the festival."

GMA Films president Annette Gozon-Abrogar likewise said she was "disappointed," even "depressed," when "Mulawin" scored a zero. She said she was eyeing at least three technical awards—Best Production Design, Best Musical Scoring and Best

CHEERS/ A2-8



POPS Fernandez, pretty at the podium

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo, guest of honor, gave each of the participating producers a check for P1 million.

THE
LETTERMEN
LIVE!

The Way You Look Tonight
When I Fall In Love
Our Winter Love
I Will Love You
Unchained Melody
Graduation Day
No Other Love
You'll Never Walk Alone
The Wonder of You
Young Love
Love Is A Many Splendored Thing
Time To Cry
Walk On By
She Cried
It's All In The Game
Seventh Dawn
Sofly As I leave You
I Believe
Venus
Portrait Of My Love
If Ever I Would Leave You
You've Lost That Loving Feeling
Sealed With A Kiss
Red Roses For A Blue Lady
The Things We Did Last Summer
Turn Turn Turn
I Only Have Eyes For You
Moon River
Witchita Lineman
More
The Impossible Dream
Up Up & Way
Going Out Of My Head
The Look Of Love
Never My Love
Warm
Put Your Head On My Shoulder
Traces / Memories
Hey Girl
Hurt So Bad
Shangrila
Precious & Few
Cherish
I Have Dreamed
And Countless More Hits!

JAN 26 MANILA HOTEL
FEATURING THE 3 TENORS
JAN 28 ARANETA
COLISEUM
JAN 29 ILOILO CITY
CENTRAL PHILIPPINE UNIVERSITY
JAN 30 CEBU CITY
WATERFRONT HOTEL
JAN 31 DAVAO CITY
CENTRAL BANK CONVENTION HALL

Ticket Prices :
3,000, 2,500, 2,000, 1,500, 800, 300
For info call Ticketnet 911-5555

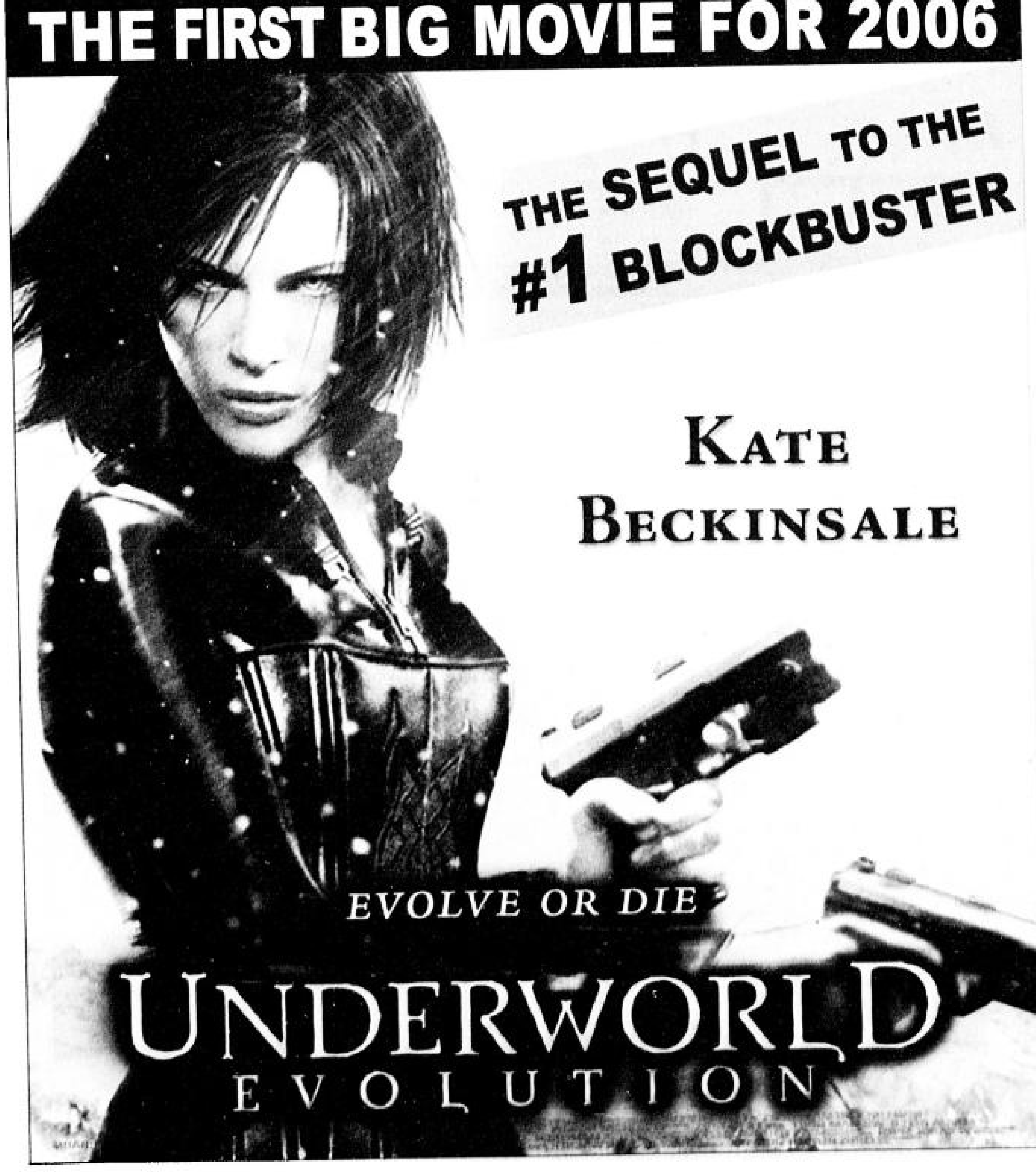
INQUIRER
Philippine Airlines
fat choi
96.3WRocK
sportsplus
105.1
923·JOEY
Solar Entertainment Corporation
OVATION PRODUCTIONS

Now Accepting Sponsorships and Block Buys. Call Ovation Productions 532-8883/747-2143

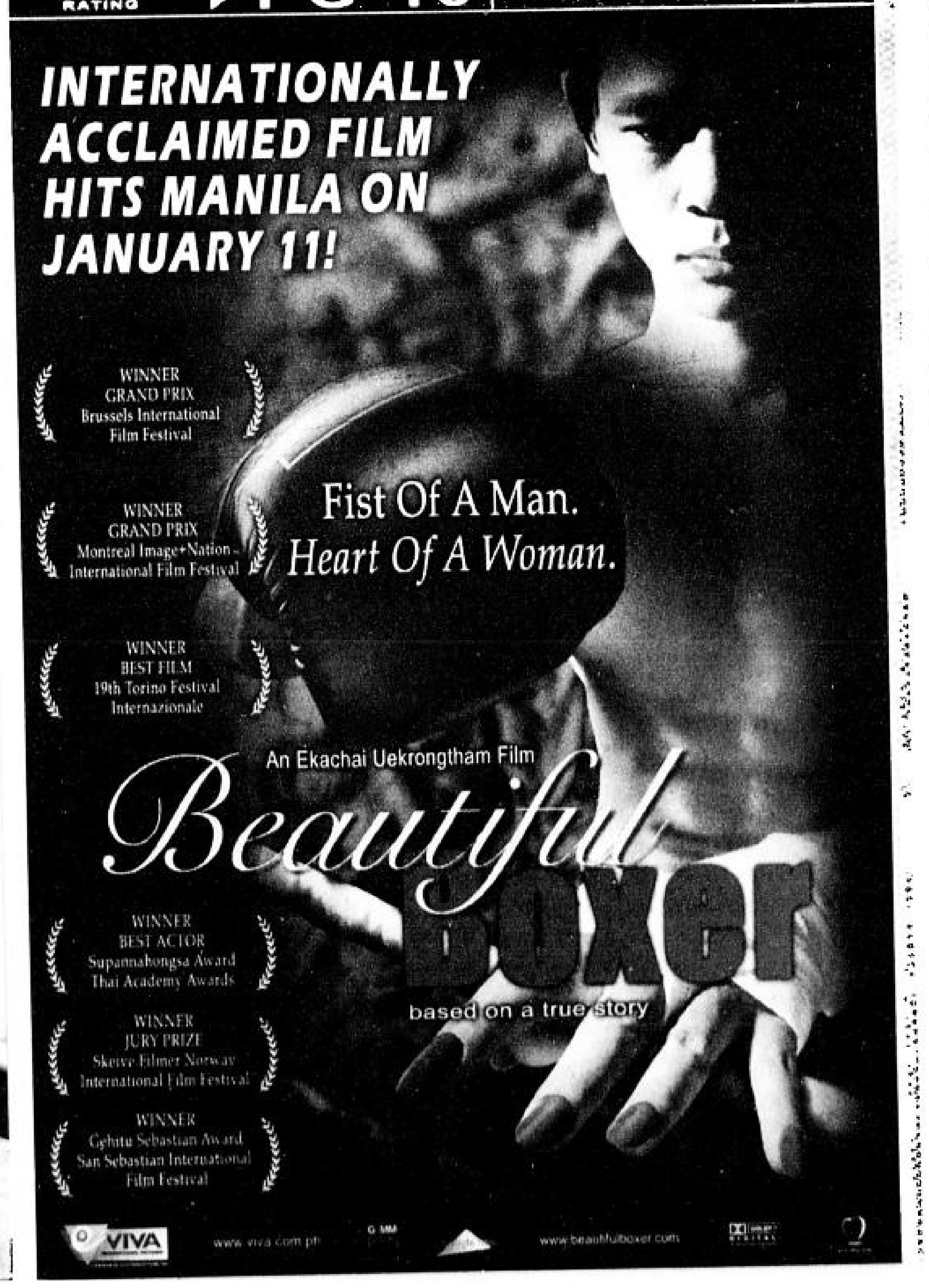
The quality and value of
merit PARTY LINE
allow you to celebrate parties
in a big way

Celebrate your parties in a big way with
STATIONERY SETS, STICKERS, ACTIVITY SETS, PENCIL CASES, PHOTO ALBUMS, JOURNALS, SCRAPBOOKS, NOTEBOOKS, PARTY FAVORS, GIFTS AND SO MUCH MORE!
The quality and value are in the name and so is the fun. Party on!

MAKATI: 812-5795/812-6316 • MANDALUYONG: 631-3149
MANILA: 243-8373/75 • SUCAT: 842-1620/842-3371
CALOOCAN: 364-5041/44 • MOBILE NO.: 0927-9946010



OPENS JANUARY 18
THE FIRST BIG MOVIE FOR 2006
THE SEQUEL TO THE #1 BLOCKBUSTER
KATE BECKINSALE
EVOLVE OR DIE
UNDERWORLD
EVOLUTION



MTRCB RATING ▶PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or parent.

INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED FILM HITS MANILA ON JANUARY 11!

WINNER
GRAND PRIX
Brussels International Film Festival

WINNER
GRAND PRIX
Montreal Image+Nation International Film Festival

WINNER
BEST FILM
19th Torino Festival Internazionale

Fist Of A Man.
Heart Of A Woman.

An Ekachai Uekrongtham Film
Beautiful Boxer
based on a true story

WINNER
BEST ACTOR
Supannahongsa Award
Thai Academy Awards

WINNER
JURY PRIZE
Skeive Filmer Norway International Film Festival

WINNER
Gybitu Sebastian Award
San Sebastian International Film Festival

VIVA
www.viva.com.ph
GMM
www.beautifulboxer.com

Combustible cast for US 'Celebrity Big Brother' challenge

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

EVEN AS THE LOCAL CELEBRITY EDITION of "Pinoy Big Brother" is still being finalized, we hear that the US version, "Celebrity Big Brother," has already lined up some very interesting "housemates."

Reportedly set to join the US celebrity challenge are the popular likes of **Macaulay Culkin, Anna Nicole Smith** and **Dennis Rodman.**

This (partial) lineup of such "combustible" personalities serves notice that the US show should turn out to be a verbal and visual roller-coaster ride. Will the celebrity cast of the local version, which is scheduled to be launched next month, be as colorful?

'Brokeback Mountain'

CURRENTLY, the talk of show biz town is **Ang Lee's** latest film, "Brokeback Mountain," which dramatizes the unique love story of two cowboys, played by **Heath Ledger** and **Jake Gyllenhaal.**

The fact that such "macho" stars are playing the movie's two lead roles makes the production even more noteworthy.

Especially significant is the film's unexpectedly good showing in mainstream theaters. Some observers interpret this to mean that the traditional anti-gay bias in the States has dissipated substantially.

It is hoped that the film will persuade gay-bashers to take a second, less judgmental look at same-sex love.

Now that "Brokeback Mountain" has become such a cinematic star and *cause celebre*, the film's local distributor would do well to advance its playdate here, to take full advantage of its current headline-making cachet.

> Imagine Dennis Rodman, Macaulay Culkin and Anna Nicole Smith under one roof

Feedback

FROM **JENNY C. Ramas** of Quezon City: "Your column on colonial mentality is a timely reminder that we continue to be held hostage by our foreign colonizers. They made us believe that we aren't as good as they are, a psychological burden that we continue to bear today.

"We should be aware of this, and consciously counteract it by buying Filipino goods and supporting local productions, instead.

"But our producers should also do their share by improving the quality of their movies, TV shows and albums. To solve such a big problem, only a concerted effort will succeed."

The lion is king

"KING Lion" has reasserted his supremacy by narrowly edging "King Kong" out of last holiday weekend's top slot at the US box office.

The victory of "The Chronicles of Narnia," in which the lion Aslan figures prominently, ended "King Kong's" two-week reign at the North American movie tills.

Not to worry, though, the latest "Kong" flick has made $400M to date, and should end up as one of the biggest hits of 2005-2006.

As for "Narnia," it has grossed $250M, and the end is definitely not yet in sight. It's entirely possible that both films could peak around the $600M level, providing a much-needed boost for the US movie industry's declining earnings.

Diluted storytelling

IN A TALK with some TV people recently, we wondered why a new *telenovela* wasn't able to match the top ratings of the competition. Were viewers tired of its legendary central character? Didn't they warm up to the series' cast of stars?

The TV people's answers were both unexpected and instructive: They confided that the show was doing well enough at the start—but, in a cost-cutting move, its production team was instructed to stretch three episodes out into five.

This distended the series' pace and storytelling verve, and some viewers soon lost interest.

There's a lesson to be learned here: the TV version of "penny-wise, pound-foolish" and "don't throw the baby out with the bathwater"—or, more properly, "don't drown the baby by pouring in too much bathwater"!

Mr and Ms magazine

RICHARD Gomez, Lucy Torres-Gomez and their daughter **Julianna** grace the cover of the January issue of Mr. and Ms magazine. The couple share their insights on how to make a relationship work, and how to keep fit.

Other articles in the health and fitness issue are on accupuncture, vegetarianism, the health benefits of coconut oil, yoga, sensual massage, prenatal massage, eating disorders, negative spirits, past lives, relationships in a technological world, Tingting Cojuangco's talisman, and tips to bring good luck this year!

Champions League of 3

By Nini Valera

VINO BELLO WAS ELIMINATED FROM "Search for the Star in a Million, Season 2," leaving contestants Tata Villaruel, Jimmy Marquez and Kris Cadevida in the Champions' League of 3.

The 21-year-old third year college student of the Adamson University told INQUIRER Entertainment after the live taping of the talent search on Friday that he was disappointed to lose this late in the game. The ABS-CBN talent show aired last night.

Vino acknowledged that the last three finalists were far more seasoned singers than he was. "I'm a late bloomer," he said. "I found out I could sing when I was already in high school. I am happy for them—they deserve to stay in the competition because they're all very good."

Vino is planning to go back to school after a six-month leave of absence.

But Vino does not leave the competition empty-handed; he has signed a record deal with Viva Records.

Next week Tata, the ER nurse in St. Paul Hospital in Iloilo faces off with Fil-Am R&B stylist Kris and band singer Jimmy Marquez in the championship.

Shortly after the finals round, Kris told INQUIRER Entertainment that he expected to be this year's Star in a Million. "My edge is that I'm different—I sound different and look different. My attitude is also different."

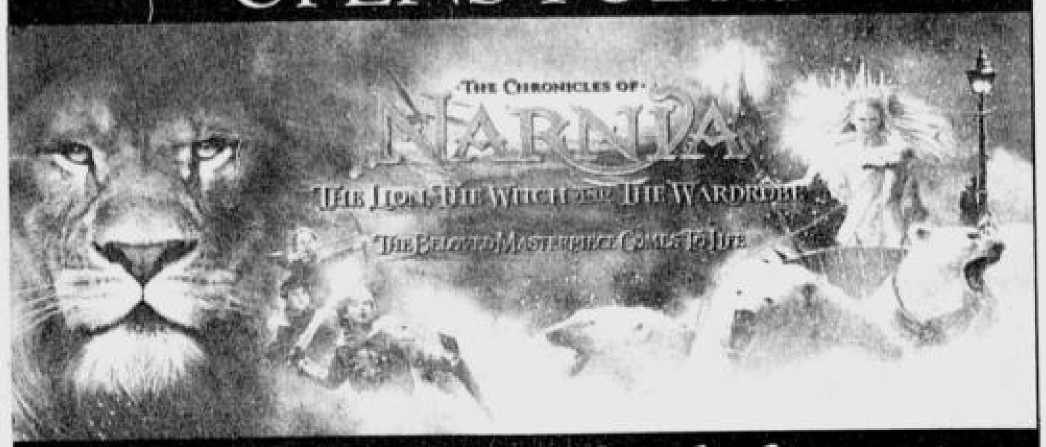
Kris, who confessed that he was a balladeer by heart, always wears a hat. "I have so many hats, I can't count them anymore," he said. Before he joined the talent search, Kris worked as a *barista* in a Starbucks franchise in Los Angeles, California, and then as a personal trainer, singer-songwriter and record producer.

Singer Jay-R, a schoolmate in St. Genevieve High School in the US, convinced Kris to come to Manila. In fact, Kris has been staying with Jay-R since he arrived last year.

"It's his house, and I pay what I can," Kris said. "Jay-R knows that I'm not yet making enough money. But he also assured me that I would make it here [as a singer]. He also said the two of us might end up pitted against one another."

CALL NOW* 833-9999
SM CINEMA movietime
NOW SHOWING
Box Office News Movie Schedules Live Events
SM CINEMA CENTER Stage
FOR INQUIRIES 8311000 loc. 2671,2673,2682,2691

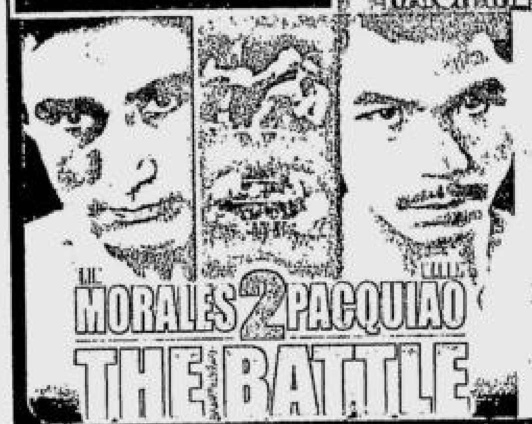
OPENS TODAY



THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE
THE BELOVED MASTERPIECE COMES TO LIFE

Enter the magical land of Narnia
Now open in all SM Cinemas nationwide

LIVE-LARGE SM CINEMA
WATCH THE EXPLOSIVE REMATCH AT SM CINEMA!



Manny "Pacman" Pacquiao
vs
Erik "El Terrible" Morales
LIVE VIA SATELLITE WITH NO COMMERCIAL BREAK
JANUARY 22, 2006
(Sunday) 8:00 a.m.
Fairview, Manila, Megamall, Southmall
Pampanga, Cebu
Megamall - 6331901 Manila - 5239240
Fairview - 4176811 Pampanga - 9637681
Southmall - 8066888 Cebu - 2313876

GUARANTEED SEATS

THE PODIUM 633-8976
1 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA 11:15FS/11:45MF.02:50/05:55 08:30LFS/09:00LMF/11:35END
2 KING KONG 12:40FS/01:10MF 08:00LFS/08:30LMF/11:40END
MEGAMALL
1 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA 11:00FS/10:45MF/01:50/04:55 07:30LFS/08:00LMF/10:35END

CEBU (032) 231-3876
1 KING KONG 10:50FS/11:00MF/02:30/06:00 09:10LFS/09:30LMF/12:35END
2 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA 12:00FS/12:30MF/03:30/06:30 09:05LFS/09:30LMF/12:05END
3 ENTENG KABISOTE 2 11:20FS/11:30MF/01:30/03:30/05:30/07:30 09:20LFS/09:30LMF/11:20END

METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
1 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 EXODUS
4 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
5 FAMILY STONE
6 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
7 ST. ANGE
8 AKO LEGAL WIFE
9 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
10 KING KONG
11 MULAWINTHE MOVIE
12 BLUE MOON

SM CITY STA. MESA
1 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
3 KING KONG
4 AKO LEGAL WIFE
5 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
6 MULAWIN THE MOVIE
7 FAMILY STONE
8 EXODUS
9 BLUE MOON
10 ST. ANGE

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
4 KING KONG

SM VALENZUELA
1 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
3 KING KONG
4 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 MULAWINTHE MOVIE
2 ST. ANGE
3 KING KONG
4 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
5 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
6 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
7 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
8 EXODUS
9 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
10 FAMILY STONE
11 AKO LEGAL WIFE
12 BLUE MOON

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 KING KONG
4 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
5 EXODUS
6 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
7 AKO LEGAL WIFE
8 ST. ANGE
9 FAMILY STONE
10 RESERVED

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
2 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
1 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
4 FAMILY STONE
5 BLUE MOON
6 AKO LEGAL WIFE
7 ST. ANGE
8 KING KONG

SM CITY MANILA
1 KING KONG
2 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
3 SHAKE, RATTLE & ROLL 2K5
4 EXODUS
5 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
6 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
7 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
8 FAMILY STONE
9 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
10 AKO LEGAL WIFE
11 BLUE MOON
12 ST. ANGE

SM SAN LAZARO
1 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2 FAMILY STONE
3 KING KONG
4 BLUE MOON
5 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
6 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2 AKO LEGAL WIFE
3 KING KONG
4 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
5 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
6 ENTENG KABISOTE 2

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2 KING KONG
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 ENTENG KABISOTE 2

SM MOLINO
1 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
3 KING KONG
4 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

SM CITY BACOOR
1 ST. ANGE
2 FAMILY STONE
3 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
4 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
5 KING KONG
6 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
7 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
8 EXODUS

SM CITY MARILAO
1 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
4 KING KONG

SM CITY DASMARINAS
1 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2 EXODUS
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 ENTENG KABISOTE 2

SM CITY LUCENA
1 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
3 KING KONG
4 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
4 EXODUS

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 KING KONG
2 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
3 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
4 AKO LEGAL WIFE
5 BLOOD FIST
6 EXODUS
7 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
8 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA

SM CITY ILOILO
1 EXODUS
2 MULAWIN THE MOVIE
3 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
4 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
5 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
6 KING KONG
7 BLOOD FIST
8 AKO LEGAL WIFE

SM CITY DAVAO
1 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2 KING KONG
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 EXODUS
5 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
6 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA

SM CITY [redacted] DE ORO
1 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 BLUE MOON

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE
FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

FAMILY STONE PG13 12:30,2:55,5:20,7:45,10:10	CHRONICLES OF NARNIA GP 2:00,5:00,8:00	CHRONICLES OF NARNIA GP 12:00,3:00,6:00,9:00
KING KONG PG13 2:40,6:20,10:00	DON'T GIVE UP ON US PG13 12:20,2:45,5:10,7:35,10:00	CHRONICLES OF NARNIA GP 1:10,4:10,7:10,10:10

MOVIES AND SCREENING SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR VERIFICATION CALL 898-1440/41

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City
For inquiries, call.
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1	FAMILY STONE 1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00 PG-13
2	CHRONICLES OF NARNIA 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30 GP
3	CHRONICLES OF NARNIA 2:10, 5:10, 8:10, 11:10 GP
4	KINGKONG 12:40, 4:20, 8:00, 11:00 GP

SHANG CINEPLEX
① CHRONICLES OF NARNIA MTRCB GP 12 30, 3 20, 6.10, 9 00PM
② CHRONICLES OF NARNIA MTRCB GP 1 50, 4 40, 7 30, 10 20 LMF
③ FAMILY STONE MTRCB PG-13 12.00, 2:30, 5.00, 7:30, 10:00
④ KING KONG MTRCB PG-13 11 00, 2 40, 6 20, 10 00 LMF
PREMIERE THEATRE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
MTRCB GP 12 00, 2 50 5 40, 8 30 LMF
Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice
Catch the Cineplex Special
A Blockbuster Gift for All Seasons
The Shang Cineplex Gift Certificates
Treat your family and friends to a thrilling movie experience only at the Shang.
Cinema Treats - for Cinemas 1,2,3 and 4
Premiere Rewards - for the Premiere Theatre
Call 633-7851, loc. 171 or 633-2227
633-4735 for more details
Shangri-La Plaza

GREENHILLS CINEMAS
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA
THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
NOW SHOWING
1 NARNIA GP 12:15, 3:10, 6:05, 9:00
2 KING KONG PG13 11:00, 2:40, 6:20, 10:00
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
PROMENADE GREENHILLS
...a dinetertainment for all!
NOW SHOWING
3 FAMILY STONE PG13 10:45, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
4 NARNIA GP 11:15, 2:10, 5:05, 8:00, 10:50
5 NARNIA GP 10:30, 1:20, 4:15, 7:10, 10:05
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.
MUSIC MUSEUM
January 27, 2005 JED MADELA 9PM
February 3 & 4 NINA&NYOY 9PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

AYALA CENTER
GLORIETTA • GREENBELT

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

AYALA CENTER CEBU

AYALA MALLS
Love Mall!

NOW AVAILABLE IN TIMEZONE GLORIETTA 4

MARIO KART ARCADE GP
THE HOUSE OF THE DEAD 4

TIMEZONE
"Time For Fun!"
www.timezonegames.com

At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
SK Cultural Dance January 14 2006	Addidas Exhibit January 13 to 15, 2006	Ms. Cebu Tourism Live Telecast January 12, 2005

AYALA GREENBELT

Volvo Exhibit
January 13 to 15, 2006

GREENBELT 1 Onstage AYALA CENTER

ONSTAGE - The perfect spot for concerts, stage plays & coporate events is now accepting bookings for May & July 2006
For bookings, pls. call 752-7862

Ayala MUSEUM

Registration for Art Workshops now on-going at Ayala Museum
For inquiries, please call 757-7117 to 21 loc 29.
Online registration at www.ayalamuseum.org

AYALA CINEMAS

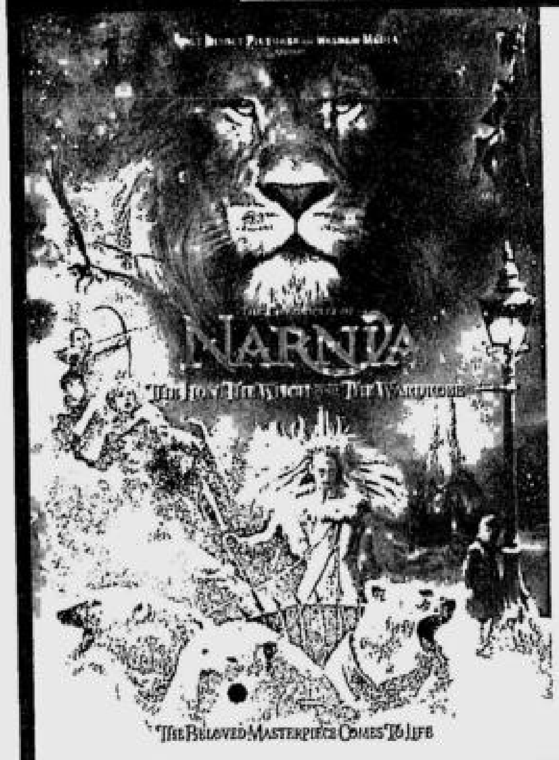
AYALA CINEMAS

THX

Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 729 7777

G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 DON'T GIVE UP ON US	2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US	3 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA	4 ST. ANGE
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 FAMILY STONE	2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US	3 THX THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 KING KONG	5 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA	6 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA	7 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA	2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 KING KONG GUARANTEED SEATS	4 FAMILY STONE GUARANTEED SEATS	5 DON'T GIVE UP ON US GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA	2 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA		
	3 FAMILY STONE	4 KING KONG	5 DON'T GIVE UP ON US	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA	2 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA	3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US	4 KING KONG


NARNIA
THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE
THE BELOVED MASTERPIECE COMES TO LIFE

Now Showing AT ALL AYALA CINEMAS

Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart)

or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservation.

For screening schedules, pls. call 729-7777.

Simply present two (2) Narnia Movie Tickets at the Glorietta 4 Activity Center Narnia Event on January 7 & 8 and get free Face Painting, Narnia Picture Taking, and a chance to win exciting prizes at the Snow Ball Dive!

MTRCB Rating: General Audience (G)

AYALA CINEMAS

Customer Service text hotline:	0917 6095900
Customer Service text hotline:	Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 8pm Greenbelt - 757 4853; from 11am to 12mn
Alabang Town Center -	842 2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu -	(032) 231 5342 loc 324

All-Digital Cinemas

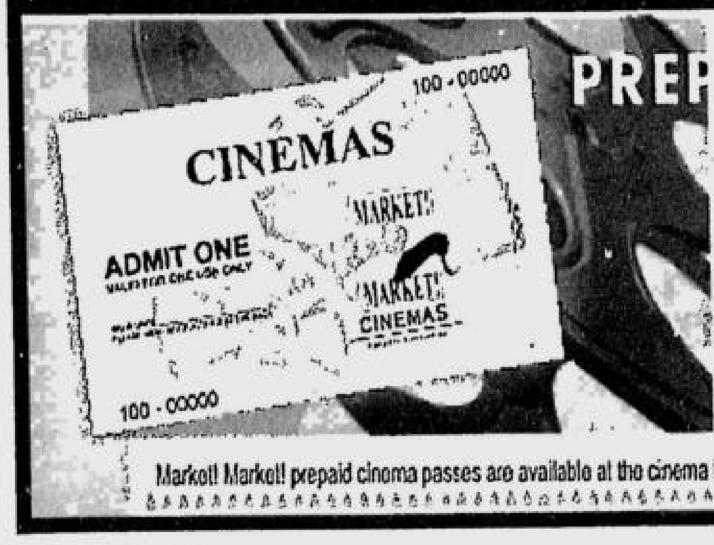
MARKET! MARKET!
The fun is in the finds
Developed and managed by Ayala Land, Inc.

Movies are subject to change without prior notice.
Customer Service Hotline: 886-7515

Free Seating Cinemas: P80.00

① ENTENG KABISOTE
② BLUE MOON
③ AKO LEGAL WIFE
④ LAGOT KA SA KUYA KO
⑤ MULAWIN

EVENTS! EVENTS!



PREPAID CINEMA PASS

Give the gift of entertainment.

MARKET! MARKET!
The fun is in the finds!
Developed and managed by Ayala Land, Inc.

Market! Market! prepaid cinema passes are available at the cinema ticket booth.

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

MOVIEWORLD

CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA 632 9116

- 1 The Chronicles of NARNIA • THX
- 2 The Chronicles of NARNIA
- 3 ST. ANGE
- 4 THE FAMILY STONE
- 5 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
- 6 KING KONG
- 7 BLUE MOON
- 8 EXODUS
- 9 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
- 10 AKO LEGAL WIFE

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

- 1 The Chronicles of NARNIA
- 2 AKO LEGAL WIFE
  BLUE MOON
- 3 ST. ANGE
- 4 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
  EXODUS
- 5 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
- 6 THE FAMILY STONE
- 7 KING KONG

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

- 1 KING KONG
- 2 THE FAMILY STONE
- 3 The Chronicles OF NARNIA
- 4 ST. ANGE
- 5 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
- 6 EXODUS
- 7 The Chronicles OF NARNIA
- 8 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

- 1 KING KONG
- 2 The Chronicles OF NARNIA
- 3 THE FAMILY STONE
- 4 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
- 5 BLUE MOON
- 6 The Chronicles of NARNIA
- 7 EXODUS
- 8 ENTENG KABISOTE 2

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

- 1 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
- 2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
- 3 RESERVE
- 4 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-5378

- 1 The Chronicles OF NARNIA
- 2 ST. ANGE
- 3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
- 4 THE FAMILY STONE

CHECK THIS OUT ▸▸

ROBINSONS CINEMAS Novaliches

Now oPen!

Cinema 1 KING KONG
Cinema 2 The Chronicles of NARNIA
Cinema 3 THE FAMILY STONE
Cinema 4 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
Cinema 5 BLUE MOON
Cinema 6 NARNIA
Cinema 7 EXODUS
Cinema 8 ENTENG KABISOTE 2

STA. ROSA (049) 837-0907

- 1 The Chronicles of NARNIA
- 2 The Chronicles of NARNIA
- 3 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
- 4 KING KONG
- 5 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

LIPA (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870

- 1 The Chronicles of NARNIA
- 2 The Chronicles of NARNIA
- 3 KING KONG
- 4 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
- 5 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332

- 1 The Chronicles of NARNIA
- 2 MULAWIN the MOVIE
- 3 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
- 4 The Chronicles of NARNIA
- 5 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

ANGELES (045) 892-2348

- 1 The Chronicles of NARNIA
- 2 KING KONG
- 3 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
- 4 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

- 1 The Chronicles of NARNIA
- 2 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
- 3 EXODUS
- 4 ST. ANGE
- 5 THE FAMILY STONE
- 6 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-5270

- 1 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
- 2 EXODUS
- 3 KING KONG
- 4 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
- 5 The Chronicles of NARNIA
- 6 The Chronicles of NARNIA

BACOLOD (034) 441-0463 (034) 441-0459

- 1 The Chronicles of NARNIA
- 2 AKO LEGAL WIFE
- 3 The Chronicles of NARNIA
- 4 KING KONG
- 5 EXODUS
- 6 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

ILOILO (033) 336-8070

- 1 The Chronicles of NARNIA
- 2 SHAKE, RATTLE and ROLL
- 3 EXODUS
- 4 AKO LEGAL WIFE
- 5 The Chronicles of NARNIA
- 6 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

MOVIE PASS
MOVIE PASS

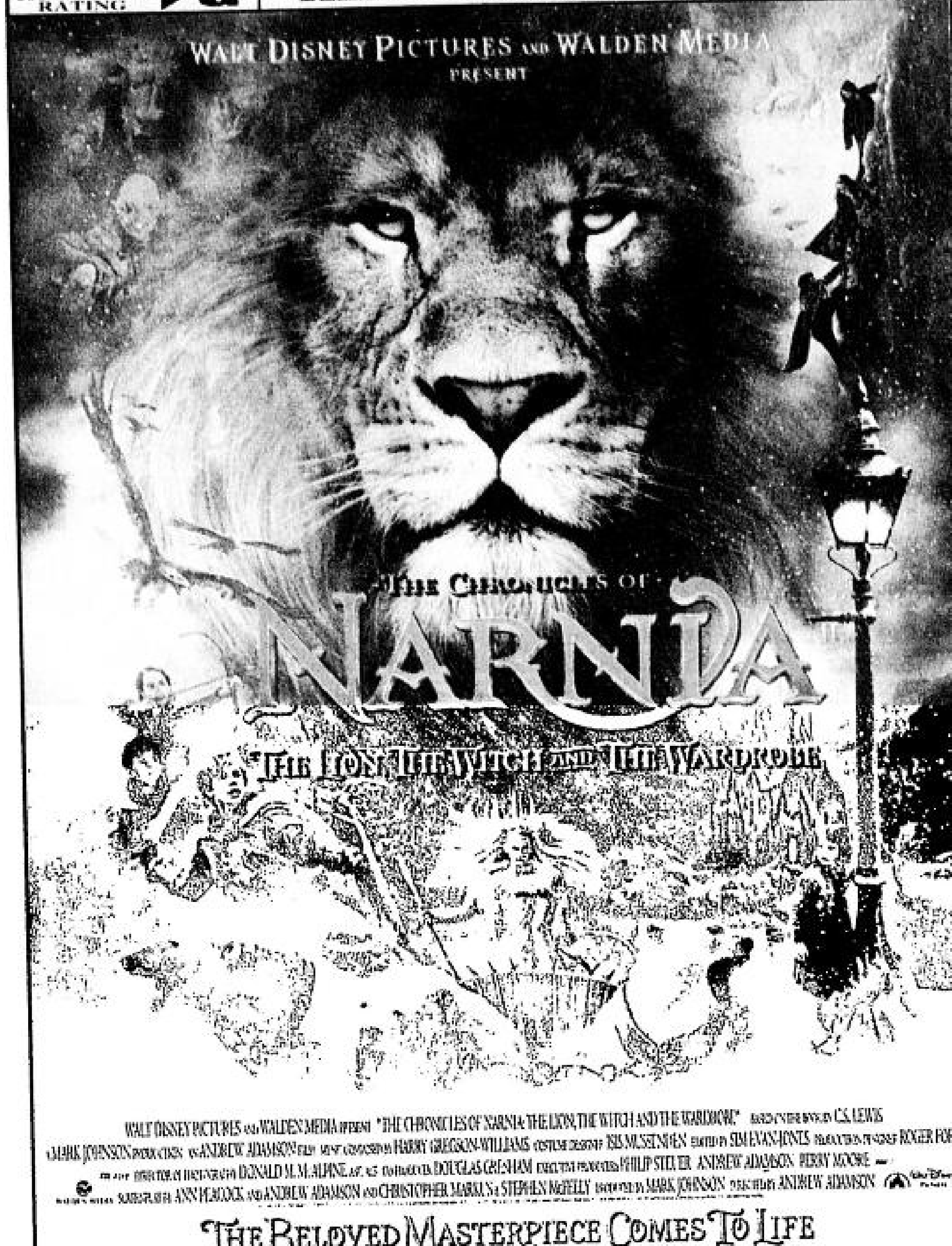
The Perfect Gift All Year Round

A Pre Paid Movie Pass to the Hottest Seats in town.

Get Special discounts for volume purchases!

For marketing and events/reservations please call Marketing Services Department at 687-7945 to 47 locals 14 and 15

NOW SHOWING
IN OVER 150 THEATERS NATIONWIDE
MTRCB RATING G | ALL AGES ARE ADMITTED


WALT DISNEY PICTURES AND WALDEN MEDIA
PRESENT
THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE
THE BELOVED MASTERPIECE COMES TO LIFE

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

Cheers and jeers

From page A2-5

Make-Up.

"But we respect the decision of the jurors," she said. "An award is not a matter of right but of privilege. *'Yun nga lang*, feeling *namin*, super underprivileged *kami*."

President Arroyo was the guest of honor at Friday's event. Wearing a black sleeveless dress and high-heeled shoes, she arrived 9:45 p.m. at Aliw Theater and was ushered in by Bayani Fernando, Metro Manila Development Authority chief and over-all MMFF chair, and Sen. Ramon "Bong" Revilla, star of "Exodus."

The President left shortly after handing out the producers' checks. In 2003, she gave P50 million to the MMFF as incentive; last year, P10 million.

'Legal winner'

"*Ako* legal winner!" announced Best Actress winner ZsaZsa Padilla as she accepted her Best Actress award. With her onstage was long-time partner, Dolphy. She quipped, "I may not be Comedy Queen [too], but I have the Comedy King with me."

Reyes did not attend the proceedings. He was at Sharon Cuneta's 40th birthday bash [at the PhilSports Arena in Pasig City], for which he was the creative manager. "I don't like awards shows because I hate dressing up," he explained.

AiAi delas Alas came well-prepared, though, bringing with her three equally hilarious costume changes—first a pink number with a bubble-machine headpiece; then an outfit inspired by Cruella De Vil from "101 Dalmatians," with stuffed toy dogs for accent; and finally, what she called her "Ako Legal Wife" costume, a red and black halter dress with a samurai headdress. She shared hosting chores with Paolo Bediones and Pops Fernandez.

PRODUCTION number introduces "Shake, Rattle & Roll." At center is Jose Manalo, Best Supporting Actor for "Enteng Kabisote 2."

IYA VILLANIA, winsome Star of the Night.

All the movies you want to see on the big screen
NOW SHOWING at the Star Group of Malls

starmall EDSA - SHAW
Tel. No. 726 6150
3: Dont Give Up On Us
4: Narnia
5: King Kong

METROPOLIS ALABANG star
Tel. No. 850 4285
1: Enteng Kabisote 2
2: Dont Give Up On Us
3: King Kong
4: Narnia

Everyday Family Day at StarMalls !
MARK HERRAS LIVE at METROPOLIS ALABANG on JAN 8 SUNDAY 4pm
DENNIS TRILLO MALL TOUR at METROPOLIS ALABANG on JAN 15 SUNDAY 4pm
LATIN & RnB GROOVES, GREAT FOOD at CUBA LIBRE BAR at 2nd Flr STARMALL EDSA
NEW KTV ROOMS at MARK'S KTV METROPOLIS & STARMALL LAS PINAS

NAME DELFIN S. VARGAS
ADDRESS SAMPALOC, MANILA
PHILIPPINES
BALIKBAYAN BOX
UP
Di ba't panahon na upang bigyan ang iyong pamilya ng aguinaldong panghabang-buhay?
Ang paghahanda sa kanilang kinabukasan ay aguinaldong makahulugang tunay.
AIG A Member of American International Group, Inc.
www.ephilam.com

Isang Pamaskong mensahe para sa mga OFW at sa pamilyang Pilipino mula sa PHILAM LIFE at PHILAM PLANS

The Philam Group of Companies offers you a full range of financial services:
Life and General Insurance • Property and Casualty Insurance • Health Care Management • Pre-Need Plans • Savings Bank
Mutual Funds • Property Development • Credit Cards • Business Processing Service • Bancassurance • Financial Advisory Service
Call Philamlife at (02) 528 2000 or Philam Plans at (02) 528 5200.

Yes! I want to find out more about Philamlife's and Philam Plans' offerings.
Name: ______ Specific Duty/Position: ______ B-day: ______
Local Address: ______ Home Phone: ______ Fax/Cell/Email: ______
Address Abroad: ______ Business Phone: ______
Please send this coupon to OFW Market Department, PHILAMLIFE, 1440 U.N. Avenue, Manila or fax to 526-9382.

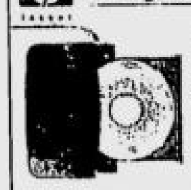
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS

Text us your feedback: inquirer biz name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inq7money.net

Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma



HP Lightscribe Direct Disc Labeling

Burn, flip, burn.

Burn custom labels onto your CDs and DVDs anytime, anywhere.

Call ICS for more info!

INTEGRATED COMPUTER SYSTEMS, INC.
Tel. (632)727-3801 www.ics.com.ph

Local firms among most optimistic for '06

Global survey ranks RP 5th in level of business confidence

By Doris C. Dumlao

THIS NEW YEAR HAS TAKEN off with a dramatic upturn in business confidence in the Philippines from the cautious mood indicated at the start of 2005, an international survey showed.

The Grant Thornton International Business Owners Survey (Ibos) for 2006, which covered more than 7,000 medium-sized businesses across the globe, even ranked the Philippines 5th highest among 30 major world economies in terms of optimism on the economy over the next 12 months.

The survey indicated that the balance between optimistic and pessimistic responses for this year tilted heavily to the favorable at +71 percent from +50 percent at the onset of 2005.

The outlook on the Philippines was thus among the rosiest out of 30 countries included in the Ibos, next to India with a +93 favorable rating, Ireland (+84), South Africa (+80) and mainland China (+77).

The figures represent the percentage balance of the respondents who were optimistic and those who were pessimistic when the Ibos was conducted in November.

The favorable rating on the Philippines for the new year was even higher than the outlook for Asian neighbors Singapore (+64), Hong Kong (+61), Malaysia (+36) and Thailand (+9).

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the more upbeat business sentiment in the Philippines was largely due to significant strides in the government's fiscal reforms, which were now attracting more foreign investments and resulting in the peso's sharp appreciation against the dollar.

Last week, global investors snapped up the government's new global bond offerings worth $2 billion, with the huge demand forcing a lowering of yields.

Elsewhere in the world, the survey showed a shift in optimism away from the robust performers of recent years such as the United States and United Kingdom while there was a major rise in optimism in the powerhouses of the 1960s-80s, Japan and Germany.

The confidence of business owners in the US on the economy dropped by nearly half from an optimism/pessimism balance of +62 last year to +32 this year and in the UK, from +46 to just +8.

Germany's balance this year surged to +41 from +17, -6 and -37 in previous years, while Japan, although still negative at -14, was seen on the cusp of a serious revival in confidence coming from the very pessimistic ratings of -27, -46 and -71 in previous years.

Other than Japan, other countries at the bottom of the heap that showed

LOCAL/ B3

Merrill Lynch expects credit upgrade this year

By Michelle V. Remo

INVESTMENT BANK MERRILL LYNCH has expressed optimism that the Philippine government will be able to substantially trim down its budget deficit to only P110 billion this year, noting that the credit outlook on the country might finally be upgraded.

The projected deficit will mean that the budget gap would go down below 2 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) from 3.9 percent in 2004 and the expected 2.9 percent in 2005.

Merrill Lynch said a substantial boost to revenue-collection efforts would be the scheduled increase in the value-added tax (VAT) rate from 10 to 12 percent starting Feb. 1. The tax measure would yield about P77 billion in additional revenues a year for the government, the bank noted.

"After the February VAT rate increase, we expect the rating agencies to restore the rating outlook back to neutral," the bank said in its assessment of the Philippine economy.

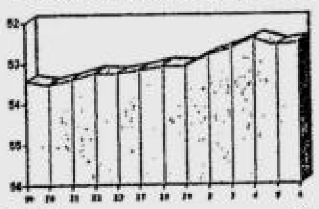
Major credit rating agencies Standard & Poor's, Moody's Investors Service, and Fitch Ratings gave a negative outlook on the Philippines last year, casting doubt on the government's ability to put its fiscal house in order due to delays in the implementation of the VAT Reform Law, considered the centerpiece of the Arroyo administration's fiscal reform agenda.

The new VAT law was finally implemented on Nov. 1 last year, after four months of delay, after the Supreme

MERRILL LYNCH/ B5

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P52.52 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Jan. 6, 2006

¥116.10 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Jan. 6, 2006

GOLD: $527.80-528.30

per ounce Hong Kong, Jan. 6, 2006

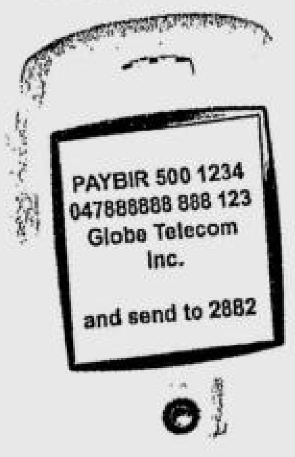
STOCK MARKET

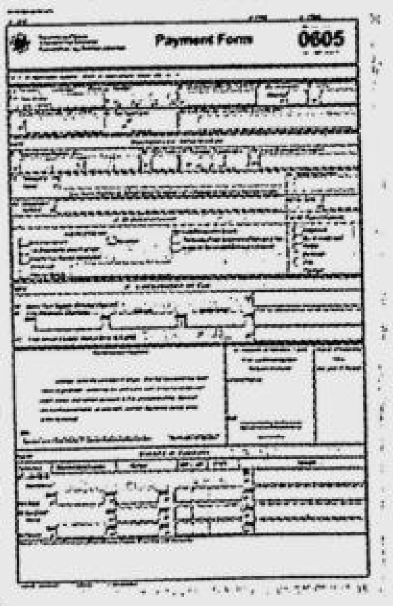
Stocks seen to rise

ANALYSTS remain bullish on stocks this week due mainly to the strong peso and low interest rates.

"Other positive factors are the local currency's strength, interest rates dropping, oil prices flat, the possibility that the Federal Reserve will end its rate hikes, corporate profitability and strong balance sheets," AB Capital said in its report.

STOCKS/ B3




Payment Form
0605

Enjoy hassle-free BIR business registration renewal via GLOBE G-CASH

This year, opt for the most efficient way of renewing business registrations with PAYBIR via G-Cash, the mobile microtaxpayment service collaboration between Globe G-Cash, the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) and Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP).

Busy entrepreneurs and business owners can once again enjoy the convenience of paying their annual business registration fees without the time-consuming process of standing in line for filing and payments. Renewing business registration is as simple as sending a text message that takes no less than a few seconds with the secure service of Globe G-Cash, the country's first cashless and cardless integrated mobile payments platform. This innovative m-commerce service is available to all Globe and TM subscribers. BIR deadline for renewal of business registration is on January 31, 2006.

To renew business registration fees via PAYBIR using G-Cash, follow these simple steps:

1. Register to G-Cash (previously registered users do not need to register again).
2. Convert cash to G-Cash (you only need P500 for each business registration renewal). You can exchange your cash for G-Cash at any Globe Business Center, accredited G-Cash Palitan Stations or through your BancNet ATM.
3. Text "PAYBIR <AMOUNT> <MPIN> <Tax Identification Number> <Taxpayer Branch Code> <Revenue District Office Code> <Registered Company Name>" and send to 2882. PAYBIR via G-Cash accepts payments for both corporate and individual taxpayers. P1.00 will be charged per transaction.

Tax Identification Number is the 9-digit number assigned by the BIR to identify your company.

Taxpayer Branch Code is the last 3 digits of your company's Tax Identification Number (TIN).

Revenue District Office Code is a 3-digit number starting from 000 to 123 which represents the Revenue District Office where your company is registered.

Once the transaction is completed, you will receive a confirmation message and corresponding trace number confirming your payment. This will also be the corresponding BIR trace number.

4. Print out BIR Payment Form 0605 two days after the mobile transaction. Access this by logging on to ***http://www.bir.gov.ph*** and clicking on the PAYBIR link. Using your 10-digit mobile phone number and the transaction's trace number or your company's TIN, access your payment records and select which one you want to print.
5. For additional inquiries, you may call BIR's 24-hour Contact Center at 981-8888. You may also call the G-Cash Toll-Free Hotline at 2882 (Globe and TM subscribers only).

How to register for G-Cash:

TEXT "REG <space> MPIN <space> <Mother's Maiden Name> <space> <First Name> <space> <Last Name> <space> <Address> <space> <Tel number>" to 2882

How to convert cash to G-Cash:

- Visit any accredited Palitan Station, including all Globe Business Centers, Hubs, SM Customer Service Counters, and selected 7-11 branches, Tambunting and Cebuana Lhuillier Pawnshops
- If you have an account with any BancNet-member bank, just visit any BANCNET ATM

1. Select option to do fund transfer to Asia United Bank/G-Cash.
2. Key in your 11-digit mobile number when asked for the destination account number.
3. Once the transaction is completed, you will receive a text confirmation. Regular BancNet IBFT transaction fee will apply.

Because you deserve more for your US Dollars...

Amount of Placement	30 Days	60 Days	90 Days	180 Days	360 Days
$1,000 to less than $10,000	3.50%	3.60%	3.70%	3.85%	4.00%
$10,000 to less than $50,000	3.90%	4.00%	4.10%	4.25%	4.40%
$50,000 and above	4.40%	4.50%	4.60%	4.75%	4.90%

Rates quoted are subject to change without prior notice.

For a branch near you, call (02) 521-7451 or (02) 523-7777 loc. 182
Member MEGALINK & PDIC Deposits Insured up to P250,000

Maybank

OFW remittances seen setting new record in '06

Gov't preparing package of incentives to encourage use of formal channels

By Doris C. Dumlao

REMITTANCES FROM OVERSEAS FILIPINO workers coursed through banks could surge to a new high of $11.8 billion this new year, or 10 percent higher than the estimated inflow of $10.7 billion in 2005, said the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

Including inflows coursed through informal channels or those unlicensed and unregulated, OFW remittances for this year may hit $13.5 billion, which is likewise higher than the projected level of $12.3 billion last year.

BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo said this forecast, which was an upgrade from the institutions' previous assessment in October, was made in the course of the continuing review of the country's external payment position.

The BSP projected in October that remittances coursed through banks would reach $11.3 billion this year.

Guinigundo added the BSP was now brainstorming on incentives that could be offered to OFWs to encourage them to send their remittances through banks.

Guinigundo said that under an executive order issued by Malacañang last year, the BSP was spearheading a task force on bank-related initiatives to encourage OFWs to use the formal banking channels. The initiatives were focused on payment and settlement systems, financial savings and investments, international relations and advocacy campaign, he noted.

INQUIRER sources said the BSP might even introduce a lottery system to encourage OFW flows through the banking system.

Based on a study on the Mexican experience, remittances held as deposits in the banking system have a beneficial multiplier effect of between two to three times as these could be channeled to investments including small and microbusinesses.

A study by the Asian Development Bank recently estimated that about 38 percent of the recipients of remittances in the Philippines preferred the informal system, primarily due to lower transaction costs.

In the meantime, Guinigundo said other government agencies were handling other initiatives to encourage remittances through the formal channel.

About eight million Filipinos are working abroad, of which three million are permanent residents in their host countries.

OFW remittances now account for about 10.5 percent of gross domestic product.

₱10B earmarked for SM Group projects this year

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE SM GROUP OF MALL TYCOON HENRY SY Sr. will invest about P10 billion this year in big ticket projects, including its largest mall in the Manila Bay area and a 10-story building that will cater to the thriving business processing and outsourcing (BPO) industry, SM Investments Corp. chief financial officer Jose Sio said.

The SM Group consists of mall operator SM Prime Holdings, Shoemart Inc. and the Sy family's property development subsidiaries.

SM Prime, which is launching its most ambitious project so far called 'The Mall of Asia,' is expected to receive the bulk of the investment budget.

SM Prime is spending P4 billion to P5 billion this year to put up new malls in Batangas (Lipa City), Bacolod , Sta. Rosa and Subic.

The SM Group is also investing P3 billion in a central business park near its Mall of Asia project that will house a 10-story call center worth approximately P1.5 billion, among others.

The call center headquarter is expected to be completed in the first half of 2007. It aims to lure foreign companies that have been looking at the country for their expansion.

"The rental rates will be lower than the Makati rates," Sio said.

The Philippine call center unit of Dell Inc., the world's biggest manufacturer of personal computers, will be in the Mall of Asia complex. Dell will initially lease 13,000 square meters, but it is not clear if the computer giant would locate to the new call center building, which will have a total floor area of 100,000 square meters.

Dell's Philippine call center, its second in Asia, will handle calls from the company's customers in the United States and will hire 700 people. This may help boost customer traffic in the Mall of Asia, the most ambitious project of SM Prime Holdings.

IFC to extend more loans to RP

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

WORLD BANK PRIVATE SECTOR ARM INTERnational Finance Corp. (IFC) is extending more loans to the Philippines in 2006 worth $125 million, country manager Vipul Bhagat said.

Bhagat late Friday told reporters that the 2006 loans would be an increase from the previous year's commitments worth at least $103 million.

IFC is looking at boosting funding for housing, rural electrification, infrastructure and the banking and financial sectors, he added.

IFC also hopes to provide $50 million to the proponents of the South Luzon Expressway upgrade, Bhagat said.

Toll operator Philippine National Construction Corp. (PNCC) and its joint venture partner, MTD Manila Expressway Corp., was supposed to start pre-construction activities for the rehabilitation, expansion and extension of the South Luzon Expressway.

In the housing sector, IFC last year agreed to provide a $41-million (P2.25 billion) loan to Filinvest Land Inc., IFC's largest local currency financing to date. The World Bank unit hopes the loan will address the acute shortage in housing, and increase mortgage financing for lower and middle income buyers.

In the banking sector, IFC is looking at providing equity support for the proposed merger of Banco de Oro Universal Bank and Equitable PCI Bank.

PG 13*

Who's afraid of the number "13"?

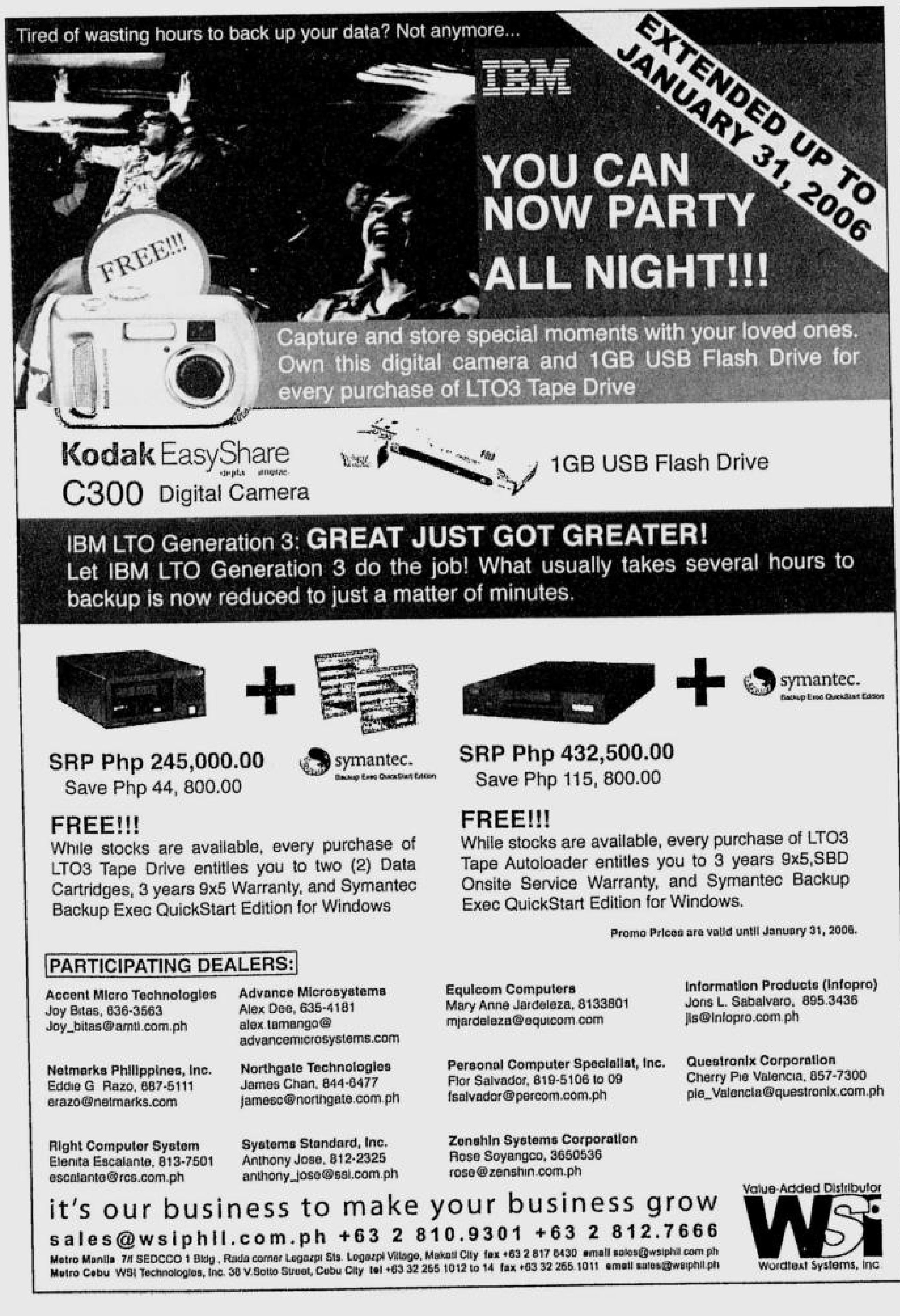
Certainly not the Securities and Exchange Commission.

It's looking for 13 lawyers and 13 certified public accountants among the country's ***Performers and Go-getters** who have the skills, passion and integrity to be part of the SEC's continuing efforts to improve our corporate and capital market infrastructure.

The take home pay may not be great, but the "psychic income" from being of service to our country is immeasurable.

If you have nothing against the number "13" and think you're the person the SEC is looking for, please call telephone nos. 725-3072, 725-0714, 0917-8947015, or send an e-mail to <mplim@sec.gov.ph>

Securities and Exchange Commission



Tired of wasting hours to back up your data? Not anymore...

IBM

EXTENDED UP TO JANUARY 31, 2006

YOU CAN NOW PARTY ALL NIGHT!!!

FREE!!!

Capture and store special moments with your loved ones. Own this digital camera and 1GB USB Flash Drive for every purchase of LTO3 Tape Drive

Kodak EasyShare C300 Digital Camera

1GB USB Flash Drive

IBM LTO Generation 3: **GREAT JUST GOT GREATER!**
Let IBM LTO Generation 3 do the job! What usually takes several hours to backup is now reduced to just a matter of minutes.

symantec. Backup Exec QuickStart Edition

SRP Php 245,000.00
Save Php 44, 800.00

FREE!!!
While stocks are available, every purchase of LTO3 Tape Drive entitles you to two (2) Data Cartridges, 3 years 9x5 Warranty, and Symantec Backup Exec QuickStart Edition for Windows

SRP Php 432,500.00
Save Php 115, 800.00

FREE!!!
While stocks are available, every purchase of LTO3 Tape Autoloader entitles you to 3 years 9x5,SBD Onsite Service Warranty, and Symantec Backup Exec QuickStart Edition for Windows.

Promo Prices are valid until January 31, 2006.

PARTICIPATING DEALERS:

Accent Micro Technologies
Joy Bitas, 636-3563
Joy_bitas@amti.com.ph

Advance Microsystems
Alex Dee, 635-4181
alex.tamango@advancemicrosystems.com

Equicom Computers
Mary Anne Jardeleza, 8133801
mjardeleza@equicom.com

Information Products (Infopro)
Jons L. Sabalvaro, 895.3436
jls@infopro.com.ph

Netmarks Philippines, Inc.
Eddie G Razo, 687-5111
erazo@netmarks.com

Northgate Technologies
James Chan, 844-6477
jamesc@northgate.com.ph

Personal Computer Specialist, Inc.
Flor Salvador, 819-5106 to 09
fsalvador@percom.com.ph

Questronix Corporation
Cherry Pie Valencia, 857-7300
pie_Valencia@questronix.com.ph

Right Computer System
Elenita Escalante, 813-7501
escalante@rcs.com.ph

Systems Standard, Inc.
Anthony Jose, 812-2325
anthony_jose@ssi.com.ph

Zenshin Systems Corporation
Rose Soyangco, 3650536
rose@zenshin.com.ph

it's our business to make your business grow
sales@wsiphil.com.ph +63 2 810.9301 +63 2 812.7666
Metro Manila 7/f SEDCCO 1 Bldg., Rada corner Legazpi Sts. Legazpi Village, Makati City fax +63 2 817 6430 email sales@wsiphil.com.ph
Metro Cebu WSI Technologies, Inc. 38 V.Sotto Street, Cebu City tel +63 32 255 1012 to 14 fax +63 32 255.1011 email sales@wsiphil.ph

Value-Added Distributor
WSi
Wordtext Systems, Inc

Roland
The No. 1 Choice of Signmakers around the World

Php. 299,000*

VersaCAMM
Available In 30" & 54"

Vehicle Graphics/ Auto Decals
Product Labels
T-shirt Transfers

Print & Cut in one Machine

PRINT & CUT single decal or bulk quantities cost-effectively!

- NO EXTRA COST on die-cutting
- NO EXTRA COST on color separation
- NO EXTRA COST on lamination even for outdoor signs

Cut Vinyl Signage
Point-of-Purchase

Kakaibang Negosyo Panalo

Exclusive Distributor:
Tgraf TEAM GRAPHICS

*Call us for financing details.
Tel: 726-3991 to 98 loc 232, 204, 203
Fax: 723-7951
Email: inquire@tgraf.com.ph
www.tgraf.com.ph

Tessie's gambit

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

SM HEIRESS TERESITA SY HAS AGAIN thrown a New Year surprise that has shaken the male-dominated banking industry out of its holiday hangover.

Both Equitable PCIBank chair Ferdinand Martin Romualdez and vice chair Winston Garcia, the GSIS president, were absent in Friday's executive committee meeting when the Sy's Banco de Oro merger proposal was tabled.

Romualdez was scheduled to arrive yesterday from the United States, but, according to the grapevine, he and Garcia had already indicated their disapproval of the BDO proposal.

The feisty Garcia had already been heard telling close associates that the merger terms would be "disadvantageous" to the Government Service Insurance System, with the lawyer privately expressing his position in more passionate and colorful terms.

The Sy family already controls about 34 percent of Equitable PCIBank, and it is not clear how the GSIS, which has about 14-percent stake, and Romualdez, with the family's 8 percent, could block the putative merger, given that the Social Security System, which owns 29 percent, has a standing agreement—although questioned before the courts—to dispose of their shareholdings to the Sy group.

Should the SSS vote along with the BDO pro-

COCKTALES/ B5

Stocks seen to rise ...

From page B1

Last week, the main index rose by 37.75 points or 1.8 percent.

BPI Trade, meanwhile, said the market was banking on higher earnings in the fourth quarter of 2005

It also cheered the hike in the VAT to 12 percent, the drop in the benchmark 91-day Treasury bill interest rates to below 5 percent and the international market's appetite for the government's $2.1-billion bond offer. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

Local ...

From page B1

pessimistic overshadowing optimistic responses were Italy (-8), Botswana (-12) and Taiwan (-19).

Overall, the survey showed that businesses in 26 out of 30 countries were optimistic about their economy's performance, and in 13 countries including the Philippines, sentiment improved over last year's.

Jim Rogers of Grant Thornton said: "This has been a year of uncertainty in some of the world's largest economies. Although all the hard economic growth indicators continue to be positive, there is an increased mood of pessimism which is hitting confidence."

The annual Ibos conducted by international membership organization Grant Thornton began in 2002, building on the European Business Survey, which it ran from 1993 to 2001. The research was conducted by Experian Business Strategies Ltd. and Harris Interactive.

AS LOW AS ₱250
FREE ESTIMATE!
FAX REPAIR
Panasonic NEC SAMSUNG
SANYO [illegible] [illegible]
MURATA SHARP OKI
NISSEI Canon OTHERS
ALSO REPAIR COMPUTERS, PRINTERS, MONITORS, TYPEWRITERS, TV, AUDIO VIDEO, AND OTHER OFFICE EQUIPMENTS.
KCS KINGS
CUT THIS AD AND AVAIL OF A 15% DISCOUNT
G-04 Auro-Vir Plaza, 1695 Evangelista St., Bangkal, MAKATI CITY 894-2309 843-6630 843-6662
G/F, Anita Bldg., Timog cor. Quezon Ave., QUEZON CITY 374-7963 374-5296

THE REPAIR SPECIALISTS
Fax Machines • Computers • Monitors • Printers (Laser, Deskjet, Dot Matrix) • Key Telephone Systems • Bundy Clock • Answering Machines • Paper Shredders • UPS-AVRs • Typewriters and other office equipments
hp Panasonic EPSON SHARP OKI XEROX ViewSonic NTC AOC SANYO SAMSUNG brother muratec Canon
CITIWORLD BUSINESS MACHINES SERVICES CORP.
GUARANTEED 60 MINS. SERVICES RESPONSE
Main Office: Lower Ground, David 1 Building, 567 Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City
Tel. Nos.: 725-7031 / 724-5823 / 723-4894
Makati Office: L/G UNIT 10, STAR CENTRUM BLDG., SEN. G. PUYAT AVE., COR. MALUGAY ST., MAKATI CITY
Tel. Nos.: 892-0718 / 892-7585

mozcom NetVideo
http://www.mozcom.com/netvideo
Internet-based Video Monitoring and Recording
Standalone IP Cameras also available
The NetVideo Digital Video Recorder (DVR) is a standalone network appliance that can replace traditional closed circuit (CCTV) video surveillance systems.
No PC Required
Advanced MPEG4 recording
Motion Detection & e-Mapping features
Viewable from anywhere using IE browser
Manila: +63(2) 848-2606 Cebu: +63(32) 253-0013
Davao: +63(82) 221-1462 Baguio: +63(74) 443-9501
E-mail: sales@mozcom.com

TeleEye
www.TeleEye.com
Connect into your store, warehouse, factory or home and see everything that is happening there anytime from anywhere!
Flexible Connection
Phone Line, DSL
Internet, GSM
• DIGITAL VIDEO RECORDING VIA HARDDISK
• REMOTE MONITORING VIA PHONE / DSL / GSM
• DYNAMIC IP ADDRESSING
• MOTION DETECTION AND ALARM DIAL BACK
Manila:291-H Del Monte Avenue, Quezon City
(02) 365-0897 • 411-5264 • 361-1654
Cebu : (032) 343-7406 • 346-3174
CALL FOR FREE DEMO
Globe - 09175333795
Smart - 09209265946

A GREAT TIME TO INVEST IN CALIFORNIA REAL ESTATE

Real estate in California has long been a stable and profitable investment. With the Peso performing strongly against the US Dollar, the opportunity to invest becomes even more attractive. And you can qualify with just a 30% down payment and a tourist visa.

Get free information on the real estate market in California and other business investment opportunities that may qualify you for an investor's visa.

For a confidential consultation from January 9 to 15 in Metro Manila, please call or text 0916 395 1221. After January 18, you can text +1650 740 1889 and I will call you back.

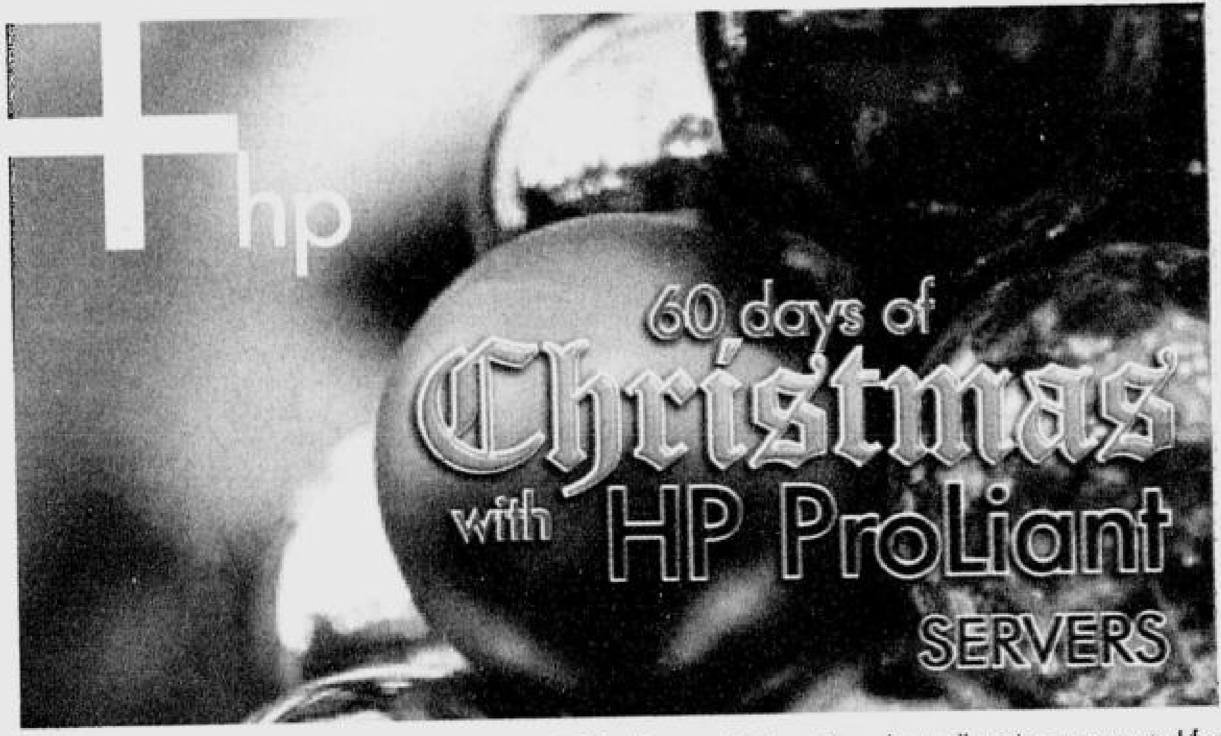
Jose Chito Denoga
Senior Vice President
COLDWELL BANKER PENINSULA
Email: bayareahomes@sbcglobal.net
COLDWELL BANKER
PENINSULA

BEDRIDDEN WITH BEDSORES?
FLYPAD
• Totally eliminates bedsores
• No need to turn patient as pad alternately inflates & deflates every 5 minutes
• Relieves pressure on patient's back
• Imported from U.S.A.
ALSO AVAILABLE: MEDICAL BED SORE PATCHES
FAR EAST MEDICAL EQUIPMENT
STAR MILLS PAMPANGA 2nd Floor (45) 636-3513
SM MANILA 5th Floor 484-1471
ROBINSONS PIONEER 2nd Floor 687-6528
SM MEGAMALL 5th Flr., Bldg. A 635-0436
SM SOUTHMALL Basement 802-1565
SM NORTH EDSA Car Park Plaza 453-3326
CEBU 417-8286
SM FAIRVIEW Basement 418-7540
ROBINSONS GALLERIA Basement 635-5061

STOP TIMEKEEPING FRAUD NOW
US Technology.
Local carry-in warranty.
Service while you wait.
No monthly maintenance.
digitalPersona Certified Partner
TITANIUM PC-BASED BIOMETRIC TIME RECORDER
AUTHORIZED PROVINCIAL DEALERS
Cebu : A.I. Logic Inc. [illegible]
Cebu : CBX Corporation [illegible]
Cebu : Dreamtech Enterprises [illegible]
Cebu : Premium Thinking Solution [illegible]
Davao : DCTech Micro Services [illegible]
Dagupan : Bitstop Inc [illegible]
Iloilo : Concept Computer [illegible]
Tacloban : Electrocomputer Data Systems [illegible]
TITANIUM TECHNOLOGIES since 1991
☎5342506-08 0920-9614808

CAR FLEET HEADACHES? RELAX!
Worry-free Car Fleet Lease
* CALL 893-3233
* EMAIL AUTOLEASE@ORIX.COM.PH
* VISIT WWW.ORIX.COM.PH
ORIX
ORIX Auto Leasing Philippines Corporation

NEGOSYONG foodcart FRANCHISE 10T
Easy to Operate, Negosyo Agad!
RICE IN A BOX DIMSUM POTATO KING SQUIDBALLS
Churros
Products: Dip Churros, Falso Churros -In chocolate or strawberry dip or filling. Iced Tea, Orange Juice
WAFFLE SHAWARMA FRUIT SHAKES PINOY HOTCAKE
Franchise Package Includes
•Use of Name
•Business System
•Marketing Assistance
•Site Assistance
•Transfer of Technology
•Recruitment and Training Assistance
•Use of Operation Manual
•Pre Opening Assistance
•Grand Opening Assistance
•Post Opening Assistance
•No Trial and Error
•Easy to Operate
FREE CART or SIGNAGE
OTHER FRANCHISES AVAILABLE: Shawarma • Waffle • Bacolod Chicken Inasal • Q-Grill Haus • Sinugba Hot Pares • Tapsilogan • Tacos Mexicana • Inday Sizzling • Balot Balot • Copy Center • Medusa Foot Spa Uncle Bob's Hotdog • Lumpia Corner • Odie Fresh Fruitshakes • Balot Station • Chicking Corner O-key Man • Ramm Copy Center • Sa Malamig • Lady Muffin • Nachorifico • Pinoy Hotcake • Icee Fresh Fruits 3 in 1 Snack Store • Odie Fresh Fruit Juice • Stop n' Wash Carwash and Many More!!!
Visit or call FRANCCON, Inc. Franchise & Marketing Consultancy SINCE 1996
MAIN OFFICE (ORTIGAS) 21/F Unit 2109 Antel Global Corporate Ctr. J. Vargas Ave. corner Meralco Ave. Ortigas Center, Pasig City ☎637-2309•637-2316•637-2393
MAKATI OFFICE 20/F Unit 2011 Cityland Pasong Tamo Towers Pasong Tamo Ave. Makati City [In front of Don Bosco] ☎728-1047•728-1048•728-1049
MEMBER SME's Franchise Association (Philippines) Foodcart Association of the Philippines


hp
60 days of Christmas with HP ProLiant SERVERS

Are iPOds, IPaqs and other gift gadgets all you've ever wanted for Christmas? Then 'tis definitely the season to be jolly this year with 60 days of Christmas with HP ProLiant. HP's got techie toys in store for each and every buyer of an HP ProLiant holiday gift bundle.

1) Promo is open from Nov 15, 2005 – Jan 15, 2006
2) A purchase of qualified server bundles are required to avail of your HP Special Christmas gift:

[illegible]	End User Price with VAT
ProLiant ML110 G3 Pentium 4 3.0Ghz, 2MB Cache, 512MB Memory & 2 x 80GB SATA drives	67,000.00
ProLiant ML110 G3 Pentium 4 3.0Ghz, 2MB Cache, 512MB Memory & 2 x 36GB SCSI drives	89,500.00
ProLiant ML150 G2 Xeon 3.2Ghz, 2MB Cache, 512MB Memory & 2 x 72GB hot plug drives	155,000.00
ProLiant ML350 G4p Xeon 3.2Ghz, 2MB Cache, 512MB Memory & 2 x 72GB 10K RPM hot plug drives	162,000.00
ProLiant ML350 G4p Xeon 3.2Ghz, 2MB Cache, 512MB Memory & 2 x 72GB 15K RPM hot plug drives	175,000.00
ProLiant DL380 G4 Xeon 3.2Ghz, 2MB Cache, 1GB Memory & 2 x 72GB 10K RPM hot plug drives	235,000.00
ProLiant DL380 G4 Xeon 3.2Ghz, 2MB Cache, 1GB Memory & 2 x 72GB 15K RPM hot plug drives	245,000.00
ProLiant ML370 G4 Xeon 3.6Ghz, 2MB Cache, 1GB Memory & 2 x 72GB 10K RPM hot plug drives	260,000.00
ProLiant ML370 G4 Xeon 3.6Ghz, 2MB Cache, 1GB Memory & 2 x 72GB 15K RPM hot plug drives	275,000.00

3) To be eligible, please email the following details to promo.events@stratworks.net
   a. Special sticker codes found in the boxes of the participating items. There is a corresponding number of sticker codes depending on bundle purchased:
      • ML110 bundle – 2 sticker codes
      • ML150 / ML350 / ML370 / DL380 bundle– 3 sticker codes
   b. Invoice number
   c. Invoice date
   d. Name of vendor
4) Once sent, you shall receive a confirmation email.
5) HP shall validate the sticker codes against the master list.
6) Once the details are verified, you will be sent a confirmation email advising the delivery date of your special HP Special Christmas gift which is one week after confirmatory e-mail.
7) Your purchases will correspond to the following HP Special Christmas gifts:
   a. ML110 or ML150 bundle : HP 512MB USB flash drive
   b. ML350 G4p bundle : iPod shuffle 512 MB
   c. ML370 or DL380 bundle : HP iPAQ rx1900 series Pocket PC
8) HP Special Christmas gifts are not convertible to cash.
9) Only one HP Special Christmas gift shall be given per sticker code combination.
10) Prizes can be redeemed no later than 60 days after end of promo period.

So what are you waiting for? Get an HP ProLiant server now, and have yourself a gadget-filled Christmas as well!

Per DTI NCR Permit # 3044 Series of 2005

hp invent

Go after mismanaged utilities, GMA urged

Firms laud Malacañang for championing consumer rights

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG SHOULD GO AFter mismanaged power and water utilities and telecommunications companies that pass on their trample to their customers.

This was recommended by Francis Chua, president of the Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce, who lauded Malacañang's recent efforts to champion consumer rights.

"As President, she should protect consumers against and all inefficient, abusive and unreliable utilities," Chua said, "The President should be supported for championing public interest."

Chua said his group would back Malacañang's plan to take over Manila Electric Co. or other utilities in the name of public interest.

He explained that since all utilities operate on a franchise granted by the government, the government also has the right to revoke this franchise for mismanagement or consumer abuse.

Malacañang has confirmed that a government takeover of Meralco (through the conversion of its P42-billion debt into equity in the country's biggest power utility) was one of its options in collecting on the penalty on management for switching its supply requirements to a Lopez-owned power producer despite an existing 10-year agreement with the National Power Corp.

Meralco's decision to buy power from more expensive power plants owned by the Lopez family was one of the reasons cited for the utility firm's high power rates.

"If Meralco can cut its customer's power connections for not paying a month's bill, I don't see why the government cannot enforce its right to collect on debts owed by Meralco to Napoc- or even if it means taking control of the company," added Federation of Philippine Industries president Jesus Arranza.

But businessman Raul T. Concepcion said it was unnecessary for Malacañang to take over utility companies to protect the public interest.

"The task falls under the ambit of regulatory bodies such as the Energy Regulatory Commission," Concepcion said.

In the case of Meralco, Concepcion said the ERC should review petitions of power generation and distribution separately to ensure transparency and guide the public on the real costs of their power.

Chua said Malacañang should broaden its new-found consumer vigilance to include other utilities to show that it was not singling out Meralco or its Lopez-controlled management.

He said Malacañang should also review the operations of other power, water and telecommunication firms and address any complaints by customers held captive by these providers.

Chua said the government should live up to its role as an independent regulator to ensure that the rights of consumers were not run over by giant utility firms.

"In normal times, we always want businesses run by the private sector. But this is a special case, and we believe the government will eventually pass on control back to a private entity," Chua said.

Learning from your mistakes

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

I USED TO THINK THAT AS I GAINED MATURITY and experience, I would make fewer mistakes. I thought, "I'm going to get better at this, because I made a lot of mistakes in the beginning."

I believed that there would come a day when I wouldn't make very many mistakes, because I'd get better. What I learned was that as I gained maturity and experience, I would continue to make mistakes, but I would learn more quickly from them.

What I found out was that I didn't lower my "mistake quota", but I learned better from my mistakes, and it's because of maturity. Maturity helps us learn more quickly from our mistakes and here are the reasons why:

1. We become more self-confident.

As we become more self-confident, we're willing to admit things that we would not admit if we had lower self-image.

2. We realize that mistakes are not usually fatal.

It was a happy day for me when I realized that when I made a mistake, it was seldom fatal. After you make a mistake and say, "Oh, I lived! I'm okay. I'm going to see another sunrise."

Then all of a sudden you say, "They're not as big of a deal as I thought."

3. We find that we make the same mistakes unless we learn from them.

Unless I learn from a mistake, I usually keep doing it over and over again.

You see, the question is not how many mistakes have you made; the question is how many of the same mistakes have you made? If I always do what I've always done, I'll always get what I've always gotten.

4. We understand that mistakes are unavoidable.

Look back at your early years. Can you think of the times you tried to avoid mistakes? You know what I'm saying? "Well, I'll just be careful. I won't make any mistakes here." Well, after a while, you just plunge in because you know the mistakes are unavoidable.

5. We see others make mistakes.

Wasn't it wonderful when you saw all the people that you admired make mistakes? You thought, "Oh, good night! Look where they are, and they blew it!"

The following illustration says a lot about life and learning from our mistakes. It comes out of a university commencement address many, many years ago by Brian Dyce, who at that time was the CEO of Coca Cola Enterprises.

He spoke about the relationship of work to one's other commitments.

"Imagine life is a game in which you are juggling five balls in the air. You can name them—work, family, health, friends, and spirit—and you're keeping all of these in the air and you will soon understand that work is a rubber ball. If you drop it, it'll bounce back; but the other four balls—family, health, friends, and spirit—are made of glass.

If you drop one of these, they will be irrevocably scuffed, marked, nicked, damaged, or even shattered. They'll never be the same, and you must understand that and strive for the balance of your life.

"How? Don't undermine your worth by comparing yourself with others. It is because we are different that each of us is special. Don't set your goals by what other people deem important. Only you know what is best for you.

Don't take for granted the things that are closest to your heart. Cling to them as you would your life; for without them, life is meaningless. Don't let your life slip through your fingers by living in the past or for the future.

By living your life one day at a time, you live all the days of your life. Don't give up when you still have something to give. Nothing is really over until the moment you stop trying. Don't be afraid to admit that you are less than perfect—it is this fragile thread that binds us to each other.

Don't be afraid to encounter risk—it is by taking chances that we learn how to be brave. Don't shut love out of your life by saying it's impossible to find—the quickest way to receive love is to give, and the fastest way to lose love is to hold it too tightly, and the best way to keep love is to give it wings.

Don't run through life so fast that you forget not only where you've been but also where you're going. Don't forget that a person's greatest emotional need is to feel appreciated. Don't be afraid to learn—knowledge is weightless, a treasure you can always carry easily. Don't use time or words carelessly; neither can be retrieved. Life is not a race but a journey to be savored each step of the way. Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, and today is a gift. That's why we call it the present."

(For information on John Maxwell's in-house or public leadership or teamwork workshops, please email us at maxwell@inspire.ph or call 813-2732/03 and ask for Gina. Text MAXWELL ON to 4632 (Smart) to get daily SMS leadership insights from John Maxwell. God bless and Happy New Year!)

ATTENTION
PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS OF THE
MIMOSA LEISURE ESTATE

This is to serve notice that the Mondragon Group of Companies ("Mondragon") is asserting its rights as the lawful lessee and developer of the Mimosa Leisure Estate ("Estate"), which the Clark Development Corporation ("CDC") is bidding out. In this regard, there are numerous cases between Mondragon and CDC pending in the Regional Trial Courts, Court of Appeals and Supreme Court. Mondragon Leisure and Resorts Corporation is also the owner of improvements and all movables inside the Estate, which were not included in the writ of execution issued by the RTC-Angeles City on December 1, 1999. However, CDC is including said improvements and movables in the subject bidding. The issue of the validity of the writ of execution itself is still pending resolution in the Supreme Court. In another action for the return of the Estate also pending in the Supreme Court, Mondragon maintains that the P491 Million which CDC had received from the Estate from December 1999 up to February 28, 2003 alone, is more than enough settlement of the P325 Million compromise rental owed by Mondragon under the Compromise Agreement dated 28 June 1999 with CDC. Yet, CDC is collecting the said P325 Million from the winning bidder. Mondragon has also filed a separate action to enforce the said Compromise Agreement with CDC. The Court of Appeals already ruled that Mondragon has the right to pursue such action and CDC's appeal of said ruling is still pending in the Supreme Court.

Mondragon invested billions of pesos to develop the Mimosa Leisure Estate, which amount was sourced from about twenty-three (23) banks which have a total exposure of about P5.3 Billion in Mondragon. The fact that Mondragon was sourcing funds from these banks to develop the Estate was known to and consented by CDC. In this regard, Mondragon will extend full cooperation and assistance to its lender banks to make sure that they will not be prejudiced by the subject bidding. Mondragon will also exhaust all legal means to assert and protect its rights and interests over the Estate against all parties concerned.

MONDRAGON GROUP OF COMPANIES

'Good to Great' revisited

MAPPING THE FUTURE

By Dr. Niceto S. Poblador

JIM COLLINS' GOOD TO GREAT (Random House, 2001) has attracted a good deal of attention from practicing managers. According to one observer, it has made the author "... a guru to watch over the next decade."

I must admit that the book has great appeal. In addition to its attention-grabbing title, it is full of catchy phrases and imaginative choices of metaphors. Its simple, straightforward expository style is made doubly effective by the use of eye-catching imagery.

However, I have not included the book in any of my course reading lists, nor am I about to recommend it as a "must read" to any of my friends. I have a good number of reasons for being critical of this work.

Field procedures

The first thing that caught my attention about this work is the cavalier manner in which the sample firms were chosen.

The study was based on data generated from a "study set" consisting of 11 "great" companies and an equal number of merely "good" ones.

By any standard, this is a ridiculously small sample size, and by no stretch of the imagination can it serve as empirical basis for the many sweeping conclusions drawn from the study.

Even more disturbing is the fact that the sample firms were selected purposively on the basis of certain "criteria" rather than by employing the usual random procedures.

Because of this serious procedural lapse, the sample firms are far from being representative, and the observations drawn from them are at best hypothetical and merely reflect the author's biases.

Data analysis

From what I can discern, Collins' analysis goes something like this: "The 11 great organizations exhibited certain common characteristics that make them different from their counterparts in the sample of good companies. These properties are essential conditions for being a great organization. By adopting any or all of these observed characteristics, any organization will enhance its chances of going from Good to Great."

I find this logic to be terribly flawed. Repeated observations of joint events do not imply causation.

For example, to conclude that promoting a CEO from within enhances an organization's chances of being great simply because great companies were observed to do so is a classic non sequitur.

Conceptual framework

One is struck by the austere simplicity of the graphic representation of Collins' "Conceptual Framework." However, this model grossly oversimplifies the complexities of organizational dynamics.

This reductionist approach pervades the entire volume and is unmistakable in the author's choice of unidimensional concepts. Due to space limitations, I shall limit my brief commentaries to only a few of these.

Level 5 leadership

The book develops the concept of "Level 5" Leadership, which Collins considers to be among a number of distinguishing characteristics of great companies.

Yet, a casual reading of the recent history of corporate America shows that there are numerous Larry Ellisons, Richard Bransons, and Steve Jobs', larger-than life leaders of highly successful organizations who are anything but the self-effacing, "aw, shucks" type envisioned by Collins.

Measures of performance

The book makes the curious suggestion that to aspire for greatness, good companies must focus on a single measure of performance—for example, profit per customer—in order to give them a better sense of direction.

Doing so, however, prevents an organization from viewing its operations from various perspectives. It also prevents them from exploring alternative directions for growth.

The Insider CEO

Collins argues that CEOs who have been promoted from within have better chances of leading their organizations to greatness than those who have been hired from the outside.

I think that a more acceptable conclusion from the study's limited data is that companies that have already achieved greatness are more likely to promote executives from within.

The book has great appeal to harried managers who yearn for simple formulas by which to "solve" the complex problems that they face. However, contrary to what this book promises, the brute fact is that there are none!

(The article reflects the personal opinion of the author and does not reflect the official stand of the Management Association of the Philippines. The author is an active academic and a knowledge management consultant. Feedback at mapsec@globenet.com.ph)

Annual ritual

Corporate Securities Info

Raul Palabrica

IT'S THE SECOND WEEK OF THE New Year.

For the optimists, the next 350 days or so will be something to look forward to with hope and confidence. New challenges are waiting to be tapped.

The pessimists have a different mind set. This year will be no different, if not worse, than the year that just ended.

In the coming days, the business managers will review their companies' performance last year and plan for possible problems in an economy beset by political bickering.

No matter what their size, the registered businesses have to undergo the annual rite of reporting their 2005 operation to the regulatory agencies.

All stock and non-stock corporations registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission have to submit their General Information Sheet (GIS) and audited financial statement (AFS) within specific periods of time.

These documents have to be filed regardless of whether the business raked in profits, broke even or suffered financial losses. Black ink or red ink doesn't matter. The reportorial task has to be complied with.

Information

The GIS gives a bird's eye view of a company's structure. It contains, among others, information about the ownership, management and capital stock of a corporation.

Through this document (which is available to the public), any party that does or wants to do business with a corporation can know more about it, especially the people who call the shots.

The GIS has to be submitted within 30 days from the date of the annual meeting of the corporation, as specified in its by-laws.

To ensure the veracity of its data, the rules require the GIS to be certified and sworn to by the corporate secretary, president or any duly authorized officer of the company.

The postponement of the scheduled annual meeting does not excuse submission of the GIS. At least 10 days before the date of the annual meeting, the company has to notify the SEC of the deferment.

In this situation, the time frame for the GIS filing is counted from the date the annual meeting is finally held.

If the company has ceased doing business, it is nonetheless obliged to submit the GIS together with an affidavit informing the SEC when and why it stopped operations.

Financial data

With regard to the AFS, corporations can submit to the SEC the same document they earlier filed with, and stamped "received" by, the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

The period for filing the AFS depends on the nature of the corporation.

For corporations that do not have a secondary license (or authority to sell securities to the public), it's 120 days from the end of their fiscal year, as stated in the by-laws.

If they issue securities that are registered under the Securities Regulation Code, the period for filing is 105 days after the end of their fiscal year.

The profile and capitalization of the corporation determine the required signatories to the AFS.

The AFS of non-stock corporations with annual gross receipts of least than P100,000 or total assets amounting to less than P500,000 may be attested and sworn to by their treasurer.

The same signing policy applies to stock corporations whose paid-up capital is less than P50,000.

If a non-stock or stock corporation exceeds the cut-off amounts mentioned, its AFS must be prepared and signed by an independent auditor.

Electronic copy

There is an additional filing requirement for companies that have annual gross sales or revenues of at least P10 million.

In addition to hard copies of the GIS and AFS, they have to submit diskettes that contain certain information about the company using a template prepared by the SEC.

Through computer technology, the data from these diskettes can be quickly transferred to the main data base of the SEC and, in the process, facilitate the verification of information earlier submitted by the companies.

Like their counterpart, the electronic version of the GIS and AFS have to be accompanied by a certification by the corporate secretary - in the case of the GIS—and the treasurer—for the AFS—that its contents are the same as those appearing in the hard copies.

Compliance with the annual reportorial requirements is not difficult. For those who cannot the services of lawyers or accountants (or do not want to even if they can afford it), blank forms of the GIS and AFS are available at the SEC offices.

Or better still, they can access the SEC website at <http://www.sec.gov.ph> and download free of charge the required forms. *(For comments or questions concerning this article, you may write to <rpalabrica@inquirer. com. ph>.)*

Domestic liquidity in Nov eases to 11.9%

By Doris C. Dumlao

DOMESTIC DEMAND FOR MONEY softened last November following the series of monetary tightening measures undertaken by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to ward off inflationary pressures.

With the slowdown in the growth of domestic liquidity, along with the appreciation of the peso, the easing of global oil prices and tapering of inflation, the BSP is expected to hold off further monetary tightening action in the near future.

The BSP on Friday reported that the growth in domestic liquidity or m3—the broadest measure of money, which is used to estimate the entire supply of money within an economy—eased to 11.9 percent in November from 14 percent in October.

The expansion in m3 was in line with the BSP's target growth of 13 percent, which had been exceeded over the previous months.

M3 includes money in circulation, demand deposits, money market funds and short-term repurchase agreements.

On a month-on-month basis, m3 in November expanded by almost 1 percent compared to the 0.2 percent growth posted the previous month.

Wary of excess liquidity that was aggravating inflationary pressures brought on by high oil prices, the BSP tightened its key overnight rates by a total of 75 basis points in the past year. It also raised the reserve requirement by 2 percentage points in July.

Excess cash, while resulting in lower interest rates, also fuels inflation by encouraging consumer spending sprees.

"Growth in liquidity continues to be driven by strong inflows of foreign exchange from overseas Filipino workers as well as from portfolio and direct investments," Tetangco said. "Liquidity growth had also started to buoy up credit activity."

In the months ahead, Tetangco said bank lending would likely pick up as banks unload their non-performing loans.

He said the BSP would continue to monitor the level of domestic liquidity to ensure that it remains consistent with the BSP's price stability objective.

Preferred Dollar Plus
Maximize Your Dollar Growth Potential!
Philam Equitable Life Assurance Company

Investment Funds of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Valuation Date 01/05/2006	Valuation Date 12/29/2005
PELAC Dollar Bond Fund	US$ 1.0887	US$ 1.0822
PELAC Global Bond Fund	US$ 1.0515	US$ 1.0470

These investment funds are specific to variable life insurance contracts and are not considered mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.

G & W clubshares
SEC License Broker No. A-17[illegible]
FREE PLAYING RIGHTS AVAILABLE
As of January 9, 2006
SHARES AVAILABLE

CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club A/B*	1,100,000/1,200,000*	1,000,000
Alta Vista B/Corp.*	-	300,000/300,000*
Baguio Country Club	-	500,000
Calatagan Golf	Pls. Call	40,000
Camp John Hay	180,000	150,000
Canlubang Golf	550,000	Pls. Call
Canyon Woods	120,000	-
Capitol Hills	70,000	-
Cebu Country Club	1,500,000	1,300,000
Celebrity Sports	120,000	100,000
City Sports Club Cebu	-	300,000
Club Filipino	120,000	-
Eagleridge A/B*/C**	180,000	150,000/200,000*/250,000**
Eastridge A/B*	Pls. Call	-
Evercrest	65,000	-
Forest Hills A/B*/C**	120,000/200,000*	150,000*
Luisita Golf	Pls. Call	270,000
Manila Golf Corporate	Pls. Call	-
Manila Golf Individual	Pls. Call	11,000,000
Manila Polo	Pls. Call	2,100,000
Manila Southwoods A/B*	370,000/Pls. Call*	300,000
Makati Sports Club	200,000	165,000
Manila Yacht Club Ind.	350,000	250,000
Metropolitan Club A/B*	120,000/150,000*	90,000
Mimosa Ind./C2*/C3**	Pls. Call	150,000
Mt. Malarayat A	230,000	-
Orchard A/B*/C**	170,000/Pls. Call*/400,000**	150,000
Puerto Azul	Pls. Call	-
Punta Fuego	Pls. Call	-
Quezon City Sports Club	160,000	130,000
Riviera Golf A/B*/C**	90,000/250,000**	130,000*
Rockwell Leisure Club	Pls. Call	180,000
Royale Tagaytay CC	80,000	-
Sherwood A/B*/C**	70,000/150,000**	80,000*
Spa & Lodge	520,000	-
Sta. Elena Golf A/B*	Pls. Call	1,100,000/1,400,000*
The Palms Country Club	Pls. Call	300,000
Tagaytay Country Club	330,000	300,000
Tagaytay Highlands	730,000	650,000
Tagaytay Midlands	Pls. Call	600,000
The Country Club	2,000,000	-
Tower Club	Pls. Call	-
Valley Golf	200,000	180,000
Valle Verde Ind.	100,000	-
Wack Wack Golf	6,430,000	6,000,000

Tel. 7723246-49/8504151-52
(0917)3287789
E-mail: info@gwclubshares.com
website: www.gwclubshares.com

Banana production up on rising demand

By Christine A. Gaylican

BANANA GROWERS BASED IN Mindanao are expanding production to meet the expected increase in demand of traditional and new markets, including the Middle East and China.

Member-companies of the Pilipino Banana Growers and Exporters Association said they would increase production by at least 5-10 percent this year.

PBGEA is composed of large-scale companies Dole-Stanfilco Philippines, Tagum Agriculture Development Co. Inc. (Tadeco) and the Lapanday Agriculture and Development Corp., Global Fruits Corp., as well as small to medium scale companies including AMS Farming Corp., Cabadbaran Fruits Corp., the Davao Fruits Corp., Compostela Plantation Inc., Nova Vista Management and Development and Viscaya Plantation Inc.

"For Lapanday alone, we are seeing no less than a 5 percent increase in production that would allow us to meet the demand of the international market," said Lapanday Foods Corp. senior vice president and general manager Francisco Lorenzo for plantation and agricultural operations segments, in an interview.

He said that more volume will be produced as some farmers have shifted to bananas due to higher returns compared to sugar planting, especially in Bukidnon.

Philippine banana exports from January to October of 2005 grew 9 percent to 1.56 million metric tons from 1.43 million metric tons delivered during the same period the previous year, records from the PBGEA indicated.

Cornering a significant share of the $70-million Japanese market, shipments of local companies to this country have moved up 10 percent to 765,000 metric tons from 698,000 metric tons the previous year.

"There were indeed bigger orders from our non-traditional markets in the first half and there is a big contribution made by the small companies and cooperatives in volumes delivered during the period," Lorenzo said.

Other markets for Philippine banana exports include the Middle East, South Korea and New Zealand, Singapore, Russia and Indonesia.

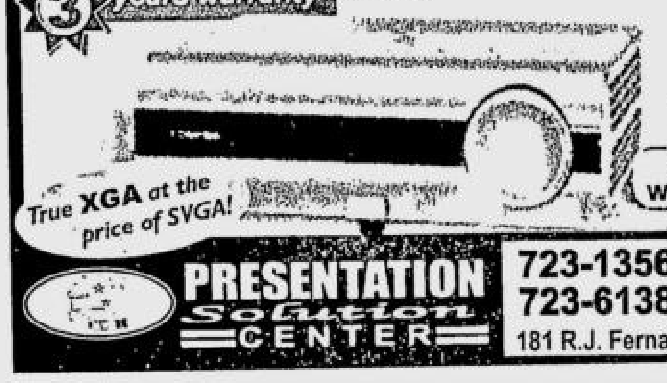
Lapanday, majority owned by the Lorenzo family, is one of the top three exporters of cavendish bananas and other varieties to the world.

GG & A Club Share's
SEC License Broker #007575 * As of January 9, 2006

CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,150,000	1,050,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	1,175,000	1,050,000
Anvaya Cove Beach & Nature Club	Please Call	-
Baguio Country Club	550,000	500,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	40,000	20,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	70,000	-
Camp John Hay	200,000	165,000
Canlubang	550,000	490,000
Capitol Hills	70,000	45,000
Cebu Country Club	-	1,300,000
Celebrity Sports Club	120,000	-
Club Filipino	140,000	-
Eagleridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	-
Forest Hills "A"	140,000	100,000
Forest Hills "B"	Please Call	-
Forest Hills "C"	200,000	-
Makati Sports Club "A"	180,000	165,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	250,000	-
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	Please Call
Manila Golf (Individual)	-	11,000,000
Manila Polo	2,200,000	2,150,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	350,000	300,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	750,000	600,000
Manila Yacht Club	400,000	-
Metroclub "A"	120,000	90,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	-	450,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "A"	230,000	200,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "C"	350,000	-
Orchard Golf Club "A"	180,000	150,000
Orchard Golf Club "B"	-	280,000
Orchard Golf Club "C"	430,000	-
Quezon City Sports Club	170,000	130,000
Rockwell	Please Call	-
Spa & Lodge	500,000	-
Sta. Elena "A"	1,300,000	1,100,000
Sta. Elena "B"	-	1,500,000
Tagaytay Country Club	330,000	310,000
Tagaytay Highlands	750,000	650,000
Tagaytay Midlands	680,000	630,000
Valle Verde (Individual)	100,000	85,000
Valle Verde (Corporate)	200,000	-
Valley Golf	200,000	190,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	6,350,000	6,000,000

*PLAYING RIGHTS ALSO AVAILABLE

Tel: 840-1761 local 862 - E-mail: ggashare@mozcom.com
Fax: 894-3021 - Website: www.ggaclubshares.com



PRESENTATION SOLUTION CENTER
Official distributor appointed by TOSHIBA Singapore
TOSHIBA
MULTIMEDIA PROJECTOR
TDP-T40
XGA / 1800 lumens
3 years warranty
Only Php68,000
with Free TOSHIBA DVD PLAYER
HI RESOLUTION PROGRESSIVE
w/ built-in Karaoke Function
True XGA at the price of SVGA!
PRESENTATION Solution CENTER
723-1356 • 727-6973
723-6138 • 723-6890
DEALERS WELCOME
181 R.J. Fernandez St., San Juan, Metro Manila

Merrill Lynch expects credit upgrade this year

From page B1

Court upheld its constitutionality.

The bank said the momentum of an improving fiscal position in 2005 would continue this year. It estimated the government's budget deficit for 2005 to have settled at P155 billion, or P25 billion better than the P180-billion official ceiling.

But the bank said the likely reduction of the deficit to as low as P100 billion this year would partly be attributed to the delay in the passage of the proposed P1.05-trillion national budget for 2006. The delay is seen to force the government to limit its expenditures to the 2005 level until the proposed budget has been passsed.

Merrill Lynch said it was maintaining its "overweight" recommendation for the Philippines based on a positive fiscal outlook. An "overweight" assessment recommends a "buy" of debt instruments issued by the country concerned.

But the bank said the Philippines should extend its fiscal reform agenda toward the medium term and not merely focus until 2006.

"While the government policy is convincing for 2006, we felt that the authorities are now mainly focused on the short-term outlook," it said. The government's fiscal plan beyond 2006 is still vague, the bank added.

Cocktales

From page B3

posal—despite her recent operation, SSS president Corazon dela Paz was present in Friday's excom meeting, accompanied by a nurse—the Sys just need to acquire about 3 percent more Equitable PCIBank shares from the market to reach the magic 65 percent and effect the merger.

Chances are, the Sys had already done their homework. If out of the blue SSS be unable to vote for the merger, then Equitable PCIBank would have no choice but to later issue a capital call to its shareholders to comply with the Bangko Sentral-mandated capital adequacy ratio.

Depending on which camp you talk to, the additional equity capital needed would range from a low of P2 billion to as high as P15 billion.

The auditing firm SGV, which is doing the numbers-crunching, has until the end of the first quarter to submit the recommendation, but already the smart money is on the high side of the so-called CAR ratio.

If the advance information is correct, from whose pockets would the liquidity-challenged GSIS, SSS and Romualdez then dip into?

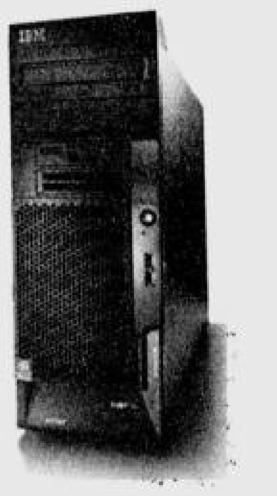
Money-go-round

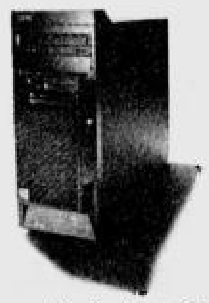
- DESPITE his family selling out of Del Monte Pacific, Martin Lorenzo chose to retain his option to acquire more than 1.26 million Del Monte shares until July 2009 at the exercise price of $0.504/share, in contrast to the $0.3862/share that the Lorenzos chose to unload their Del Monte shareholdings to the San Miguel-Butch Campos venture.
- Long-time Ayala Corp. secretary Mercedita Nolledo has acquired the McMicking penthouse in Urdaneta Apartments.
- He is just 54, but stockbroker Filomeno Francisco has had enough of the business' daily roller-coaster ride. Francisco has opted for early retirement from AB Capital Securities, which he has served for 25 years now, and will be replaced by Lamberto Santos Jr. as nominee to the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Heard through the grapevine

DISSATISFIED with the quality of its recent disclosures to the stock exchange, particularly about the recent capital infusion from the "new" shareholders, the Philippine Stock Exchange has decided to continue the trading suspension of the Indonesian-controlled Export and Industry Bank.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)





Want to invest in a server that grows with your growing business needs? Get the IBM eServer® xSeries® servers powered by Intel® Xeon™ Processor. They offer true scalability, so you can build on your infrastructure instead of 'ripping and replacing'. They're also easy to install, configure and manage and offer a lower Total Cost of Ownership in the long run. Expectedly, with IBM, innovation comes as standard. Your local IBM Business Partner can tell you more.

intel Xeon Inside™

GROWING FAST? GET A BIGGER OFFICE, NOT A BIGGER SERVER ROOM.

IBM eServer® xSeries x226
Intel® Xeon™ Processor 3.0GHz 800MHz FSB with 2MB L2-Cache (Dual capable)
1 x 512MB ECC DDR2 SDRAM DIMM, expandable to 16GB
1 x 73.4GB Integrated Dual Channel Ultra 320 SCSI Controller Hard Drive
Integrated NIC 10/100/1000 full duplex
Diagnostics LED
Optional Remote Supervisor Adapter II
Optional Tower-to-Rack Conversion Kit
3-year On-site Warranty; Service by IBM
FREE 1 x 73.4GB HDD with every purchase!
From PhP137,000† (86484AA)

☎ THE WORLD'S HELP DESK
Learn more about our full range of IBM Express servers. And find the IBM Business Partner near you who can help you choose the right system to meet your requirements.
ibm.com/eserver/ph/offers
1800-1888-1426
SIZE OF BUSINESS
HELP FOR ANY SIZE PROBLEM

IBM eServer® xSeries®

IBM eServer® xSeries x100
Choice of Processor - Intel® Pentium® 4 3.0GHz 800MHz with 1MB L2-Cache or Intel® Celeron®
1 x 512MB ECC DDR2 SDRAM, expandable to 4GB
2 x 80GB Integrated SATA Hard Drive
Integrated IBM ServerRaid 7e; support RAID-0/1
Integrated NIC 10/100/1000 full duplex
Diagnostics LED
1-year On-site Warranty; Service by IBM
Free 256MB Imation USB 2.0 Flash Drive Mini with every purchase!
From PhP63,000† (848621A)

IBM eServer® xSeries x206
Intel® Pentium® 4 Processor 3.0GHz 800MHz with 1MB L2-Cache
1 x 512MB ECC DDR2 SDRAM, expandable to 4GB
2 x 73.4GB Integrated Ultra 320 SCSI Controller Hard Drive
Integrated IBM ServerRaid 7e; support RAID-0/1
Integrated NIC 10/100/1000 full duplex
Diagnostics LED
Optional Remote Supervisor Adapter II
Optional Tower-to-Rack Conversion Kit
1-year On-site Warranty; Service by IBM
From PhP87,200† (848219S)

IBM

IBM Partners: Advance Microsystems Inc. • Advance Solutions, Inc. • Ares IT Systems • AIP Peripherals Phils. Inc. • Axis Computers • Axus International Inc. • Ayala Systems Technology Inc. • Columbia Technologies, Inc. • Ecol I.T. Solutions Corporation • Equicom Computer Services, Inc. • Information Products Corporation • MG Business Systems, Inc. • Micro Image Company, Ltd. • Micro Pacific Technologies & Systems Corporation • Microbase, Inc. • Microphase Enterprise Company • Northgate Technologies, Inc. • Productivity Tech Services, Inc. • Questronix Corporation • Silicon Valley Computer Center • Valueline Systems & Solution Corporation • Villman Computer Systems, Inc. • Virtuality Information Technology Systems • Zenshin Systems Corporation
IBM Corporate Resellers: Creative Technologies, Inc. • Ng Khai Development Corporation • Personal Computer Specialists, Inc. • Unison Computer Systems, Inc.

†Price quoted are 10% VAT inclusive and are subject to change without prior notice. IBM, the IBM logo, the On Demand logo, eServer and xSeries are trademarks or registered trademarks of International Business Machines Corporation in the United States and/or other countries. Intel, Intel Inside, the Intel Inside logo and Intel Xeon are trademarks or registered trademarks of Intel Corporation or its subsidiaries in the United States and other countries. Other company, product and service names may be trademarks or service marks of others. [illegible] IBM Corporation. All rights reserved.

INFOTECH
E-mail: pr_info_tech@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Leo Magno
Text us your feedback: inquirer it name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Intel builds entertainment PC around ViiV

(For the complete version of this story, go to the Infotech section of www. inq7.net.)

By Leo Magno

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA—INTEL CORP. IS PUSHING a computing platform that it hopes would become the nerve center of digital entertainment content in our living rooms and change the way we look at TV.

At the 2006 International Consumer Electronics Show (CES) held here, Intel made clear its plans about the ViiV platform, a set of specifications for computers positioned as nerve centers for home entertainment. The ViiV platform is not just an Intel chip; it is built around a combination of Intel-developed hardware and software.

INTEL Corp. CEO Paul Otellini (second from left) discusses downloadable video such as movies with Hollywood stars Morgan Freeman, Tom Hanks and Danny DeVito. LEO MAGNO

ViiV computers could come in the traditional PC form factor that we know—with monitor, keyboard and big tower casing. Or, ViiV computers could come in small cases much like a set-top box for cable TV, although Intel refuses to call them set-top boxes because, it said, these appliances are fully functional PCs without the trimmings.

Thus, ViiV computers may come in the form of a PC or an appliance designed to store music, record TV shows, download movies, play online video games and serve up family photos and home videos. The appliance-like versions can even turn on like your ordinary household appliances. With the QuickResume feature, you just flick a switch and it's on.

The appliance and consumer electronics functionality of ViiV is in line with Intel's push toward digital home entertainment, the company's rebranding and new marketing strategy. The company last year restructured itself to focus on five platforms, one of them being home entertainment. It also recently dropped its 37-year-old logo as part of a major rebranding effort that emphasizes the chipmaker's shift away from its core PC business into consumer products. Which is also why ViiV was launched at CES.

At his keynote speech, Intel CEO Paul Otellini explained that the company started a massive shift from developing chips by ramping up their clock speeds to developing chips based on multicore processing, or having two or more cores in one processor. Intel has launched the Centrino Core Duo, the company's first premium brand product since the Pentium was launched in 1993. The first batch of ViiV PCs are powered by the Centrino Core Duo.

"The line between the PC and entertainment devices is blurring," said Otellini. "We are moving from a 2-foot viewing format to a 10-foot format."

By this Otellini meant that users now want to access their digital entertainment content in their PCs and view them from the comfort of their couches 10 feet away from their big-screen TV monitors, whereas before users could only do that two feet away from the monitors of their desktop PCs.

"That's why we built the ViiV platform from the ground up. It's a combination of hardware and software that deliver rich media experience and make entertainment devices and content easy to integrate."

ViiV thus acts as a nerve center for digital content to manage files such as MP3 music, digital photos, home videos, on-demand movies, downloadable games and other digital entertainment content. But instead of using your computer monitor, you hook it up to your TV to combine the best of both worlds. Intel said ViiV PCs are not just digital video recorders like TiVO which allow users to record and buffer TV shows for instant replays and on-demand viewing. ViiV manages all forms of entertainment as long as its digital.

Intel itself does not manufacture ViiV PCs. It merely developed the platform and specs. Original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) such as Acer, Fujitsu, D-Link, LG, Linksys, Lenovo, Huawei, Onkyo, Sony and HP are manufacturing ViiV appliances. More are expected to be released within the quarter. OEMs call their products "digital media adapters" or "network media players" or "wireless media players." They are all, in general, ViiV PCs that act as digital entertainment nerve centers.

As Intel continues to shift from making chips to building platforms, is Otellini acting like Kevin Costner in "Field of Dreams" when he heard a ghostly whisper saying "build it and they will come?" Intel is betting on it. And come they did; content partners and OEMs all came to join the ViiV bandwagon.

As Otellini himself said, "the platform doesn't matter without content."

More than 40 companies are providing content services to ViiV. Some will be subscription-based, some will be free. NBC Sports, for example, will stream its coverage of the Winter Olympics in Torino, Italy, to users with ViiV-compliant boxes. AOL is streaming reruns of classic TV series for free, as the shows are supported by advertisements. DirecTV is offering its own ViiV box so that the satellite signal would go straight to the nerve center instead of to the TV receiver. Televisa, the largest Spanish news program will be on ViiV, as well as the Chinese shows of Shanghai-based SMG.

Movies-on-demand are also inching closer to the home. At the CES, Otellini called onstage Hollywood stars Tom Hanks, Morgan Freeman and Danny DeVito to discuss the ClickStar broadband digital entertainment venture. ClickStar will make movies available via download, starting with the movie "10 Items or Less" which stars Morgan Freeman and Paz Vega.

The assumption, of course, is that the ViiV user is online with a broadband connection. Once the network goes down, the service does, too. Case in point was the live demo of Yahoo! Inc. chair and CEO Terry Semel at CES, who was using a ViiV appliance running on Windows XP Media Center Edition. The network went down and the ViiV operating system stalled, cutting short Semel's presentation on Yahoo!'s new cross-device services. Semel had to call onstage Hollywood star Tom Cruise to yank him out of the embarrassing situation.

One perennial problem with technology is that devices are created and fixed faster than business concerns. While handheld video devices, digital audio players and high-end cell phones are ready to receive a smorgasbord of content, issues on digital rights management and business models have yet to be answered. Content providers are still grappling with intellectual property concerns with the advent of video and audio download. They are also concerned about new distribution models that veer away from tried and tested ones such as via cable. The same could be true with ViiV, which is creating new distribution models not just for audio and video but also for the entire enchilada of digital entertainment content.

enigma TECHNOLOGIES INC.
MAIN OFFICE: CMS Bldg. Mezzanine 339 Highway Brgy. Ninoy Aquino Angeles City
www.enigma-phil.com YOUR PC & SOFTWARE WHOLESALER
ANGELES | BAGUIO | CAVITE | LAGUNA
CAVITE: PLDT: (046) 417-3928, 417-1402, 417-0682 (Manila Line) 741-1067

LGA Socket 775 DUAL CORE
Intel Pentium D 2.8
ECS Socket 775, Chipset 945
512MB DDR2
FX 6200TC 128MB PCI Express Video Card
15" AOC Monitor, 80GB SATA
P 34,900

LGA Socket 754
Athlon 64 3000+
P 20,300
Athlon 64 2800+
P 17,800
Athlon 64 2600+
P 17,400
on board VGA, 256MB DDRAM
15" AOC Monitor, 40GB SATA

LGA Socket 775
Intel Pentium 4 2.66
P 19,300
Intel Celeron D 2.66
P 17,300
on board VGA, 256MB DDRAM
15" AOC Monitor, 40GB SATA

LGA Socket 775-HT
Intel Pentium 4 3.0
P 23,900
Intel Pentium 4 2.8
P 20,600
on board VGA, 256MB DDRAM
15" AOC Monitor, 80GB SATA

The enigma digitallife
From laptops as low as
ECS G320 P23,995
to MP3 players as low as
Apacer Audio Steno Av220 P1,500
and Digital Cameras as low as
Kodak EasyShare C300 P5,600

Authorized Service Center of: AOC, ANBONN, IBM, SAMSUNG, Canon, LEXMARK
Extended Service Provider of: hp invent

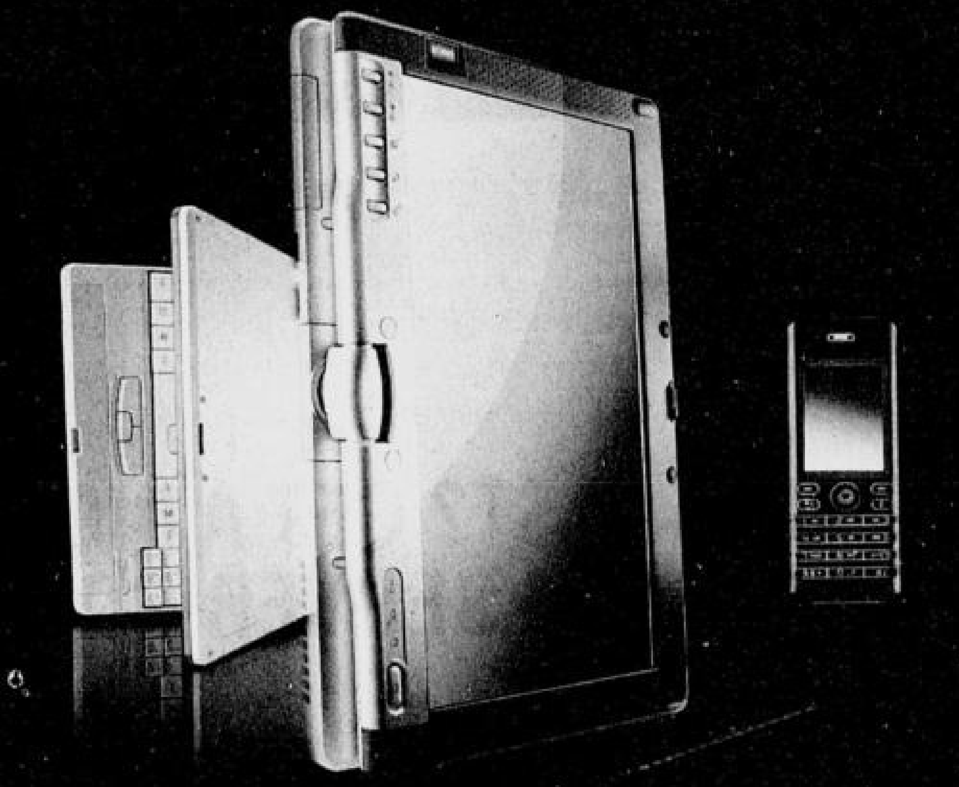
Packages include the ff:
ATX casing w/ PS2 keyboard, PS2 mouse w/ pad, 1.44MB FDD, 200 watts multimedia speaker, 52X BENQ CD-ROM, 500 watts AVR

JAVA Programming Made Easy and Effective
By using educational contents offered in Japan for years by 10 art-ni Corp. and Acrossgate Global Software, Inc. on
Jan. 16 -27, 2006 (Manila)
Jan. 30 to Feb. 10,2006 (Cebu)
Feb. 27 to Mar 10,2006 (Manila)

Training Fee: P10,000.00 (includes training materials, meals & snacks)

Limited seats available on a first come first serve basis.
Contact PhilNITS at : < www.philnits.org >
Lorina/Cinelle: (02) 8982691 to 92 (Mla)
Quesa : (032) 2540577 (Cbu)

THE POSSIBILITIES ARE INFINITE FUJITSU



Fujitsu recommends Windows® XP Tablet PC Edition.

Lightest *
Impressively Small
Stylishly Powerful
LifeBook P1510 - Pen Convertible Notebook

* Pen Convertible Notebook powered by Intel® Centrino® Mobile Technology.

LIFEBOOK | Built-In Confidence

Fujitsu Philippines, Inc. (FPI)
Customer CareLine: +63 (2) 841-8488
Sales Hotline: +63 (2) 894-8557
Website: http://ph.fujitsu.com/fpi
Service Hoteline: +63 (2) 841-8400

intel inside centrino MOBILE TECHNOLOGY

HOWARD D. BELTON
Chairman and CEO
Unilever Philippines

Hon. EFRAIM C. GENUINO
Chairman & CEO
Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation

Hon. MARGARITO B. TEVES
Former President and CEO
Landbank of the Philippines

CHRIS J. NELSON
Managing Director
Philip Morris

WARNER G. N. MANNING
President and CEO
HSBC

CEO EXCEL AWARDS 2005

IABC PHILIPPINES

MENARDO G. JIMENEZ, JR.
SVP - Retail Business Group
Philippine Long Distance
Telephone Company

ANICETO M. SOBREPEÑA
EVP, ED
Metrobank Foundation

Hon. LITO L. ATIENZA
Mayor
City of Manila

RICARDO G. SANTIAGO
SVP, HR Mgt., Plant Admin.
PASAR Foundation, Inc.

RINA LOPEZ-BAUTISTA
President and ED
Knowledge Channel

Hon. JESSE M. ROBREDO
Mayor
Naga City

EDGAR O. CHUA
Chairman and President
Pilipinas Shell Petroleum

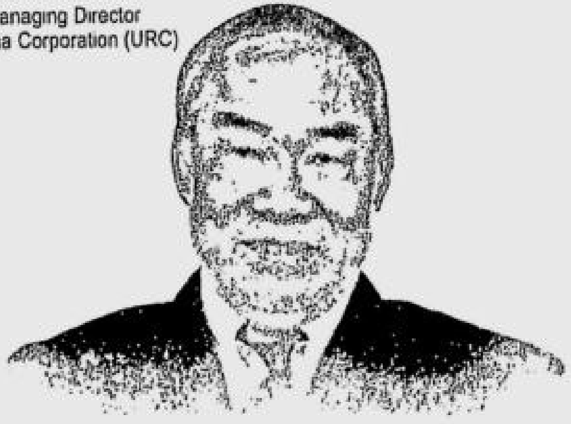
ALLAN T. ORTIZ
President and CEO
TRANSCO

Hon. MA. LOURDES C. FERNANDO
Mayor
City of Marikina

Hon. GRACE M. PADACA
Governor, Province of Isabela

LARRY J. CRUZ
President and CEO
LJC Group

BIENVENIDO S. BAUTISTA
EVP and Managing Director
Universal Robina Corporation (URC)



Dr. FIORELLO R. ESTUAR
President
MAYNILAD

GRACE DEL ROSARIO-CASTAÑO
President and Managing Director
Johnson & Johnson

JOSE P. DE JESUS
President and CEO
MNTC

Fr. FRANCIS B. LUCAS
President
Catholic Media Network

The **International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) Philippines**, the local chapter of a prestigious global network of more than 13,000 business communication professionals in over 60 countries, pays tribute to the exceptional communication skills of top-level managers in private, government and non-government organizations with the holding of the 2005 CEO Excel Awards.

The CEO Excel Awards recognizes senior executives who have successfully harnessed communication in advancing the reputation, enhancing the profitability, or achieving major objectives of their organizations.

This annual competition aims to raise public awareness of the importance of communication in business and organizational management; to recognize the top-level executives or managers who have shown extraordinary skills as communicators; and to present their accomplishments as models of best practices in organizational communication.

IABC PHILIPPINES

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BUSINESS COMMUNICATORS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
President Cosette Romero; Executive Vice President Marian Catedral; VP for Finance Lalaine Santana;
Directors Ramon Osorio, Rey Anthony David, Jr., Marla Garin, Elpi Cuna, Allan Paul Flake, Edward King, Ramon Isberto, Veronica Tapia-Merk

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 897-8425 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 8978425
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 522-4406 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The Widest Reaching Classifieds

RATES
P245 per column centimeter
P75 per line
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINES
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Mondays to Saturdays
12:00 noon
Day before publication
Sundays
12:00 noon
every Thursday

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

MEDICAL

PHYSICIAN/SURGEON

RAPID Tx VD-STD
Ex. SWEAT PIMPLES KELOID
ALLERGY WARTS SKIN PEEL
15 Annapolis Greenhills
Call 7276124 - 25 9am-7pm

VDSTD CLINIC COMP LAB
T 8175071 Matrinco Bldg
2178 P.Tamo Mkti City

PERSONAL

TUTORIAL LESSONS

MENTORSPLUS 9319767

HOUSEHOLD

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

Direct Maid Yaya Inf Cook7289060

VMI MANPOWER 896-5431
MAID MASIPAG OR UR MONEY BACK !

A'A MAIDS/YAYA 4386920

BEST MAIDS 4162896

DOLE ACCREDITED AVAILABLE YAYA MAID TEL 5621236 / 5620020

Help Agency 5328376 • 5321947

HOME EXPERT
YAYA/HMAIDS/F.DRIVER
773-8998•0918-7095816•

MARSIFOR AGENCY 4373040

Trusted Maids Yaya H'boy7572089

Yaya, Cook H'maid 8957507

Good Maid Yaya Driver 9957034

IVYLANA MAID* 4331431 YAYA * 4335931

LIPAT BAHAY

•731-6833•LIPAT

L-BAHAY 9206784 4540520

•Cheap 9260424/09163416775

•P1300/TRIP 742-14-57

TIPID LIPAT 681-7623

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

MAKATI

Lots, H&L C5 nr Fort
1.5M-14M Nr McKinley Hills 4-5br 10% DP or 3Yrs No Int or No DP 10mins Fr. Ayala 0917-8313226

MANILA

NR LA SALLE TAFT
BnewThse/3stry/3br/maids/3tb /2grgeP4.710M 8903461

MANDALUYONG

4Sale 8Wack' 174m² 3BR 3 1/2 TB 6Flr 2PKG Upgraded Fully Furn •0917-8865134•

MARIKINA

Bnew 4br3tb jacuzi 3.2M 9487112

PROVIDENT VILL nr ATENEO 413m² w/ 3hses nr gate P4M LOT ONLY 301m² gate Rush 2.2Mneg T6356003; 9338423

QUEZON CITY

72 Anapolis Cubao 9122194

Nice Bnew 6br6tb4cg7240429

CAVITE

PAMELA 682K TEL5296117

SILANG 640K 09193075017

LAGUNA

Laguna Bel-Air Sta Rosa
Low D/P Edna 0917-8312369
Mariel 0917-6215864

Ready for Occupancy
La Marea Trails San Pedro
3BR 2TB 146m² cor Lot
P3.3M • Call 0920-9003136

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

1.4M C5 Nr The Fort
13T/mo. or 3Yrs. No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD 2-4BR 15min Fr Mktl 0917-8169849

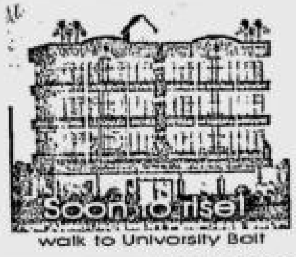
RSG GUEVENTHOMES

BACOOR only 10 mins from Baclaran!

P6,606/mo*

* Pag-IBIG Housing Loan

as low as P950T
30% D/P in easy installment
70% balance thru in-house
convertible to Pag-IBIG Housing Loan



as low as P700T
CASH/TERMS
STUDENT CONDO

534-9921 * 531-0390 * 439-6728 * 534-8350 * 531-1384*
(0917) 855-7881 * (0920) 950-4626 * (0920) 911-0002
(0920) RSGHOME * Toll Free: 1-800-10-RSGHOME * www.guevent.com

---

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

ERA Oceanic REALTY GROUP

LEASE-TO-OWN

Greenbelt Radissons
20T/mo; Behind AIM
Legaspi Vill., Makati

8 Wack Wack
2-3BR, 25-35T/mo
Best golf view!
Mandaluyong City

Golf Hill Terraces
15T/mo;Near UP,Ateneo
Adj. Ayala Heights,QC

Marina Square Suites
25T/mo:Manila:Bay View

867-8913 to 17
0917-8479276

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

CONDO NR GLOBAL CITY 32SQM UP 1.1M UP RFO 2BR SHERYL TAN 0918-3691064

MAKATI CONDO
RENT / SALE : MANY CHOICES
READY FOR OCCUPANCY
843-0887 / 887-5318
www.condo.com.ph
The Condo Specialist

OWN CONDO? 26% DISC 10% DP MOVE-IN 32-57M² GLOBAL CITY D' FORT MARIAN 0918-6245220 881-8055

VISTA DE LAGO
1.4M-2BR, 50sqm/3.1M-4BR,115sqm
Global City, 15min. to Ayala
10%DP MOVE-IN/IN-HOUSE/PAG-IBIG/BANK FIN
0920-6348545

MANDALUYONG

CONDO, BNEW, 09192189817

PASIG

VACATION HOUSE IN METRO 10% Down Move In NO Down Nr Makati-Pasig P'que New Resort Condo 0927-2401098

QUEZON CITY

4br w/ garage nr Ateneo UP Champion Suprmart Sikatuna Vill 9215328 ; 09166496838

LOT

QUEZON CITY

LA VISTA Mansion type
P30M part SWAP of small QC prop+cash Call 426-5650 • 929-1832 • 0919-8212235

BATANGAS

FARM FOR SALE 7,500m² P200 /sq.m. Neg. Calaca, Nr. Beach T-09209220534

BUSINESS SPACE

ROBINSON'S PIONEER SHOP 4 Sale G/F P50T 7476946

FARM/FISHPEN/RAWLANDS

2.9HA Farm Lot Sto. Niño Lipa •0917-8865134•

Balsik Hermosa Bataan 24,312m² 300/m² w/47 Mango Trees & Hse Clean Title Miles 09216722866 09287849699

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL

LOT 4 LONG TERM LEASE
SIXTO ANTONIO PASIG
GUD LOCATION 9209516043

HOUSE

RIZAL

ANTPLO Resthse Daily Wkly Rates Ideal 4 Wedding Parties, Retreats T-9121163/09207169801

Imagine yourself earning **P50,000 to P100,000**
Start right away with **P7,000 by**

WHOLESALING / RETAILING

of **"SAN MIGUEL PRODUCTS"** Purefoods, Magnolia, Monterey, Ginebra, San Mig Coffee, Jelly Ace, **"COCA-COLA PRODUCTS"** Coke, Sprite, Royal, Hi-C, Sarsi, Eight O'Clock, **"CARTOON NETWORK"** Disney, Snoopy, Barbie, **TITA'S TOCINO, MEGA SARDINES, SAUCI-MI, EXTREME MAGIC SING, KOBE** Shoes, **GIBSON'S L.A. CRUISER, YONEX,** KingJim, **KISSA,** Fashion Accessories, Apparel and a whole lot more.

TO SEE IS TO BELIEVE!!!

Those who responded to this **AD** are now happy earning more than **P100,000/mo.** The **ONLY COMPANY** that is **HIGHLY APPRECIATED** by both **NATIONAL & LOCAL Government Officials**. Tell your friends about this great opportunity.

ATTEND FREE "ENTREPRENEURSHIP" Orientation

Jan. 10, 12, 16, 18, 24, 26, 30	- 2PM SHARP	JOLLIBEE, SM Megamall 5th Flr.
Jan. 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 2006	- 10AM, 2PM, 5PM	G/F, Octagon Bldg., San Miguel Ave. Ortigas Center, Pasig City (back of SM Megamall)
Jan. 14, 2006 Saturday	- 6PM SHARP	JOLLIBEE Mendiola
Jan. 13, 2006 Friday	- 2pm SHARP	JOLLIBEE, Sta. Lucia East 2nd Flr.

Please bring this AD to serve as your passes. Raffle & Giveaway await you! Don't miss it!

ANNOUNCEMENT

Here are the correct dates for the IBM DAKSH – TESDA JOB FAIRS:

Lipa City, Batangas Job Fair – January 10, 2006
San Pablo City, Laguna Job Fair – January 11, 2006
Sta. Rosa, Laguna Job Fair – January 12, 2006

Please refer to our ad yesterday in Job Market for the venues and other details! We'll conduct a one-day processing of applications! Get hired within the day! See you there!

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

MANILA

Fully Furnished • 535-8006

nr LaSalle 3BR 3TB 8992148

Units 4 Stdnts 09155835289

APARTMENT

PASAY

APT 0906-3080769•521-1025

QUEZON CITY

CUBAO U&D 2BR P8T 9121163

WAREHOUSE/FACTORY

PASIG 1000m² 0917-8035948

ROOM & BOARD

•FURNISH PASAY 8872865•

nr LaSalle 1BR w/AC 8992148

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

Ofc/Condo/Hse 4 Rent/Sale 8925201;8921085;8921281

MAKATI

Mkti nr Ayala P1T Ldy 8974697

MAKATI

Mkt/Mla Condo Sale/Rent 0917-6266516 • 610-1770

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

HONDA

1998 HONDA CRV 4X4 A/T P500T W/55,000KMS CALL JUN OR JOEL 638-3139

MERCEDES

90 260E 560K 0918-9392726

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

BidalCarsVans CstrBus 4229296

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

ACCOUNTANTS/AUDITORS

Qualifications:

- CPAs/Accounting graduates
- Male/female
- At least 21 yrs. old
- With pleasing personality
- Good moral character
- Willing to work overtime/travel

Applicants shall bring their resumé with 2x2 ID picture and apply personally at:

Rm. 622 Imperial Palace Suites,
Tomas Morato, Quezon City
Look for **Mark** (0928-2323387)
or **Jerry** (0915-4672447)

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

Affordable Rent a Car Hiace, Vios, Corolla Low Rates 0920-9518097

Carlines Rent a Car Vans Coaster 4LOL Xpdtn U-Drive Cars & Driver Services 813-1975 8131976 8103466

Cheap Van 9330311;9348411

P800/L3 9136710 / 4333682

REVO w/driver 9272821

CAR LOAN

1% Auto Easy 5344441

1% AUTOLOAN 788-0361

1% Car Lending 656-0140 United Tree Car Loan Corp.

1% CARLOAN 373-6519

1% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

1% w/out taking car 5315577

1% w/out taking car 7262780

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% easy carloan 7615352/55

1.5% w/o taking Car 7228942-43

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

2% W/O TAKING CAR 7880183-84

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

YAMAHA GRAND & UPRIGHT PIANOS : TERMS -T7213124

PETS

Exclnt Dog Sch 0919-2050952

G.Ret pup/adult09185221929

Pug 11mons. 0917-8332969

WANTED TO BUY

A NAME YOU CAN TRUST!
MANILA WATCH EXCHANGE
BUY • SELL • PAWN
ROLEX+OTHERS
& OTHER SWISS WATCHES
DIAMONDS / JEWELRY
HI-APPRAISAL/FAST CASH
REPAIR/POLISH ANY WATCH
T#804-0484 • 834-2886

Buying Rolex
watch or any fine Swiss Watch
Fast Cash Call 09185113079

"PROFESSIONAL & CREDIBLE"
WE BUY USED
SWISS WATCHES
SECONDO 2/F GLORIETTA 1 (8940282
SWISS WATCH LOANS
LOW 5% INTEREST
AGENCIA DE MAKATI 889-7956

WE BUY AT HIGH PRICE
ROLEX
5646593 5897041
5633742 0917-8473744

BUYING ROLEX
Other WATCHES BEST PRICE
0917-8884040 • 7269687
7220433 • 4123543

NOTICE

GMB

Notice is hereby given that GMB Corp. (Japan) is the registered owner of the trademark "GMB" used on high quality auto spare parts such as universal joint, water pump, fan clutch, tensioner bearing, idler bearing, ball joint, control arm, inner shaft, cross rod, pitman arm, idler arm, tie rod end, rack end, side rod, and stabilizer link, and their corresponding patents, that are ISO 9001 and ISO/TS16949 certified and protected by intellectual property laws. The public is hereby warned that the "GMB" trademark is being used on fake and low quality products that are distributed and sold in the market as genuine GMB products.

The use of the "GMB" trademark in any manner whatsoever without the prior written authority of GMB Corp. (Japan) is a violation of The Revised Penal Code (Act No. 3815) and The Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines (R.A. No. 8293) and it shall be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. GMB Corp. (Japan) is willing to give a modest reward to anybody who can provide evidence for a successful prosecution for infringement of the intellectual property rights of GMB Corp. (Japan).

In case of doubt on the genuineness of any of these products, or any suspected infringement or unlawful importation, distribution, and sale thereof, please contact GMB Corp. (Japan) through:

ARREZA & ASSOCIATES
Counsel for GMB Corp. (Japan)
Unit O, 10/F Burgundy Corporate Tower
252 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Ave., Makati City
Tel. Nos. (632)8442595 / (632)8445168
Fax No. (632)8445249; e-mail: arlaw@pacific.net.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, the recognized leader in the newspaper industry with its **balanced news and fearless views** is committed to helping our trade partners achieve its business goals and serving the community via generation of employment.

We are in need of

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SUPERVISORS

to work for our Distributor Partner in the areas of Pampanga, Bataan, Tarlac, Nueva Ecija and Zambales.

JOB DESCRIPTION:
✓ **Will handle a sub-distributor partner to grow the business.**

QUALIFICATIONS:
- College graduates from the localities;
- Highly motivated; Aggressive; Hardworking;
- Must possess excellent oral and written communication skills both in English and Filipino;
- Preferably Male, willing to work on a graveyard shift, fast-paced, dynamic and flexible environment.

☐ Background in sales is not necessary, but a plus..

Send your ***Resume*** to **GQY Distribution Group Inc.** at
**GQY Distributors Inc., Dolores Homesite Extension, Dolores,
San Fernando Pampanga**

or call/fax 045-9614048 and look for **Mr. Mar Manabat or Mr. Jess Yap**.
You can email it to
jessy@mail.irnet.net.ph or qdydistribution.com.ph

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

TELE-MARKETING PERSONNEL

- Male or Female
- Graduate of any 4 years course
- Not more than 30 years old

SALES AGENT / ACCT. EXECUTIVE

- Male or Female
- Graduate of any 4 years course preferably Marketing major
- Not more than 30 years old

CADET PLANT ENGINEER

- Male
- Engineering graduate
- Not more than 30 years old

INTERESTED APPLICANTS CAN APPLY AT:
TRINITY MARKETING, INC.
#496 E. T. Yuchengco St., (formerly Nueva)
Binondo, Manila. Look for Rose
Bring recent 2 x 2 picture.
Biodata will be provided by the company

PERFECT LOGISTICS
PHILS. INC.

Delica - P220,000.00
Caravan - P260,000.00
Special Arrangements for
SEAMAN, PILOT, OFW & BALIKBAYAN
Guarranteed Lowest Price
No Hidden Cost and A - 1 Condition
Financing Available
(02) 249 - 1818 / 249 - 1831
0917 - 8579153 / 0926 - 6911125
0916 - 2069813 / 0918 - 886075

PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

NATION Pawnshop, Inc.
Pob. Meyc. Bulacan will auction unredeemed pledges of JULY '05 on JAN. 24, 2006 11am- Lanuza & Sons (PDI - DEC. 22, 2005)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Libis Jap Rest Bar 4Rent
Complete Equipt Pay Dep 2D
Take Over Tom 0921-5586192

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Marketing Managers 09178463228

RTW CONSIGN 0917-8830002

SALON FOR SALE Inside SM Manila 52sqm 0917-8266115

Build your Own Business HOT New Products frm USA
(02) 376-2642 & 44

BUSINESS FOR SALE

Barbershop 280T BFHomes 5 Chairs 09178917363

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS FOR SALE

Restaurant w/ good Income near PRC J.P. Rizal, Makati 5646593 5897041 09178473744

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

Urgent Need!
Interior Designer email CV horizonlineinterior@yahoo.com

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FEMALE

ACCOUNTANT BKPG 24-29YO ccc.mig@mail 642-8552

WANTED: ASST DENTIST
02-8008585/0464773633

MALE/FEMALE

$$ URGENTLY NEEDED $$
BAND W/ 5 MEMBERS (4FEMALE AND 1 MALE) TEXT OR CALL •0920-6262141 / 498-1172•

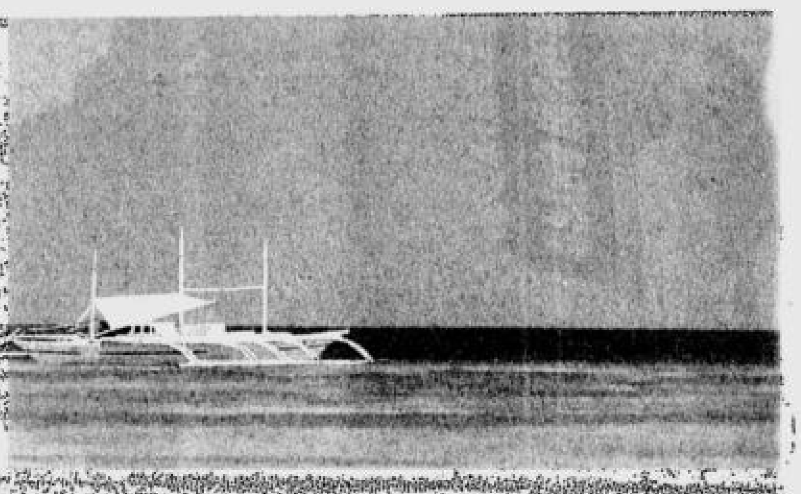
CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 897-8425 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 8978425
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 522-4406 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

OBITUARIES

RATE
P245 per column centimeter
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINE
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Monday to Sunday
12:00 noon
Day before publication

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.



Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES
OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)
WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

ARTURO S. ARCE

August 16, 1940 – December 3, 2005

wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to relatives, friends, officemates at the National Statistics Office, churchmates, and all others who blessed us with their presence, words of comfort, and who generously shared their resources during our time of bereavement.

Most of all, we thank our Lord Jesus Christ for His faithfulness, abundant grace and gift of eternal life.

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Matthew 10:39

CLASSIFIEDS

No DOLE employee will be displaced

THE DEPARTMENT OF Labor and Employment (DOLE) clarified that none of its employees will be displaced with the implementation of the rationalization program in 2006 contrary to news reports.

Labor and Employment Acting Secretary Danilo P. Cruz said that the 100 DOLE employees which reports said stand to lose their jobs as 'rationalization' starts next year are actually those who are planning to avail early retirement which carries a package of benefits.

The rationalization program is part of the government's efforts to improve its service delivery and efficiency by streamlining agencies through dissolution of redundant offices and posts and realignment of personnel. It offers a retirement package to government employees who would be affected by rationalization.

Cruz stressed that no one among the DOLE employees have been forced to retire due to rationalization. In fact, he said that those who hold redundant positions but do not wish to retire would only be realigned to essential positions that have been vacant or created under the rationalization program.

"Government employees including those in the DOLE who will be affected by the program have the option to retire or be transferred to essential positions," Cruz said, adding that many DOLE employees have voluntarily applied for early retirement which means that they may have plans other than continue working with the government.

"It's their choice and, therefore, are actually happy with it," he said.

Earlier, Assistant Secretary Ma. Anthonette V. Allones also pointed out that there will be no displacements in the DOLE because employees to be affected by the rationalization program will just be transferred to essential positions that have been vacant for a long time.

Allones also said that DOLE employees are supportive of the program adding that many of the employees have applied for early retirement spurred by the benefits and incentives offered under the early retirement program.

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region VII, Cebu City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

GRAINS HANDLING SERVICES FOR NFA CEBU

HANDLING SERVICES OF 644,000 BAGS GRAINS STOCKS WITHIN NFA WAREHOUSES

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY**, through its *Corporate Budget for 2006* intends to apply the sum of *ONE MILLION NINE HUNDRED THIRTY TWO THOUSAND PESOS (P1,932,000.00)* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for Grains Handling Services for Cebu of NFA Region VII. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY** now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for Grains Handling Services of NFA Region VII. Delivery of the GOODS is required upon receipt of Notice to Proceed until December 31, 2006, or upon completion of the services for the volume of 644,000 bags, whichever is applicable. The grains handling services comprise the following:

PROVINCE	LOT #	LOCATION	VOLUME (bags of 50 kg)	ABC (P)
CEBU	1	BOGO	168,000	504,000.00
	2	BADIAN	154,000	462,000.00
	3	STA. FE	168,000	504,000.00
	4	TUDELA	154,000	462,000.00
		TOTAL	*644,000*	*1,932,000.00*

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, Instructions to Bidders (ITB). The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY and inspect the Bidding Documents at *NFA, Banilad, Cebu City* starting January 02 to January 10, 2006 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Interested Biders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of *Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00)*. The method of payment will be in cash. The Bidding Documents shall be reviewed personally by the prospective Bidder or his duly authorized representative.

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on ***January 11, 2006 @ 10:00 a.m.*** at *NFA Training Center, 3rd Flr., Banilad, Cebu City*. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on *January 24, 2006 not later than 10:00 a.m.* All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in an amount at least equal to, and not lower than a percentage of the Approved Budget for the Contract to be bid, in the following schedule and form or any combination thereof:

Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of ABC to be bid
Cash/Cashier's/Manager's Check payable to NFA issued by a reputable commercial bank in Cebu City or	One Percent (1%)
Surety Bond issued by GSIS marked "Callable on Demand"	Two & a Half Percent (2.5%)

Bid opening shall be on ***January 24, 2006 @ 10:00 a.m.*** at *NFA Training Center, 3rd Flr., Banilad, Cebu City*. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend the bidding. Late Bids shall not be accepted

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
PIOLITO C. SANTOS
Banilad, Cebu City
032-2321939
email address: nfaro7@cvis.net.ph
032-2336095
website: www.nfacebu.net.ph

(Sgd.) PIOLITO C. SANTOS
RBAC Chairman/ARD

(PDI - Jan. 2 & 9, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region VII, Cebu City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

GRAINS TRUCKING SERVICES FOR NFA CEBU

TRUCKING SERVICES OF 84,000 BAGS GRAINS STOCKS TO NFA WAREHOUSES

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY**, through its *Corporate Budget for 2006* intends to apply the sum of *TWO HUNDRED NINETY FOUR THOUSAND PESOS (P294,000.00)* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract of Grains Trucking Services for Cebu, Bohol, Negros Oriental and Siquijor of NFA Region VII. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY** now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for Grains Trucking Services of NFA Region VII. Delivery of the GOODS is required upon receipt of Notice to Proceed until December 31, 2006, or upon completion of the services for the volume of 84,000 bags, whichever is applicable. The grains trucking services comprise the following:

Province	Source of Stocks	Destinaton	Minimum # of Trucks	Volume (bags in 50 kg)	ABC (P)
Cebu	Cebu	Sta. Fe	6 (10-wheeler)	84,000	294,000.00

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, Instructions to Bidders (ITB). The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY and inspect the Bidding Documents at *NFA, Banilad, Cebu City* starting January 02 to January 10, 2006 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Biders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of *Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00)*. The method of payment will be in cash. The Bidding Documents shall be reviewed personally by the prospective Bidder or his duly authorized representative.

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on ***January 11, 2006 @ 2:00 p.m.*** at *NFA Training Center, 3rd Flr., Banilad, Cebu City*. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on *January 24, 2006 not later than 2:00 p.m.* All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in an amount at least equal to, and not lower than a percentage of the Approved Budget for the Contract to be bid, in the following schedule and form or any combination thereof:

Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of ABC to be bid
Cash/Cashier's/Manager's Check payable to NFA issued by a reputable commercial bank in Cebu City or	One Percent (1%)
Surety Bond issued by GSIS marked "Callable on Demand"	Two & a Half Percent (2.5%)

Bid opening shall be on ***January 24, 2006 @ 2:00 p.m.*** at *NFA Training Center, 3rd Flr., Banilad, Cebu City*. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend the bidding. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
PIOLITO C. SANTOS
Banilad, Cebu City
032-2321939
email address: nfaro7@cvis.net.ph
032-2336095
website: www.nfacebu.net.ph

(Sgd.) PIOLITO C. SANTOS
RBAC Chairman/ARD

(PDI - Jan. 2 & 9, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
LIVELIHOOD CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID

The Livelihood Corporation - KKK Processing Authority is inviting interested parties to join in the public bidding for the sale or lease of the following real estate properties:

PROPERTY/ADDRESS	AREA	DESCRIPTION	FLOOR PRICE
1. **MAKATI PROPERTY** 7th Flr One Corporate Plaza, 845 Arnaiz Ave., Makati City	987.75 sq.m.	Condominium Units (Whole 7th Floor)	39,510,000.00
2. **LAGUNA PROPERTY** Km. 71, Brgy. San Andres, Alaminos, Laguna	17,394 sq.m.	Industrial Land (Former Dairy Project)	7,456,000.00
3. **DAVAO PROPERTY** R. Castillo Street, Brgy. Agdao, Davao City	3,695 sq.m.	Light Industrial Land	5,815,000.00
4. **BULACAN PROPERTY** Purok 4, Brgy. Santisima Trinidad, Malolos, Bulacan	3,397 sq.m.	Residential Land	4,076,000.00
5. **BOHOL PROPERTY** Brgy. Dampas, Tagbilaran City, Bohol	551 sq.m.	Residential Lots (2 Adjoining Lots)	1,488,000.00
6. **CABANATUAN PROPERTY** Brgy. Kalikid Sur (Cabu), Cabanatuan City	1,335 sq.m.	Residential Land	401,000.00
7. **BATANGAS PROPERTY** Lot 7 Block 2 Cobella Homes, Danaza, Tanauan, Batangas	137 sq.m.	Residential Lot	343,000.00
8. **BACOLOD PROPERTY** Pag-asa Street Extension, Brgy. Tangub, Bacolod City	220 sq.m.	Residential Land	341,000.00
9. **PANGASINAN PROPERTY** Brgy. Buenlag, Binmaley, Pangasinan	1,506 sq.m.	Residential Land	301,000.00

Conditions:

a) Winning bidders shall assume responsibility of paying any and/or all taxes and liens relative to the sale or transfer of the properties.
b) Official Bid forms, documents, Instruction to Bidders and details can be obtained during office hours from the Estate Development and Management Division located at the above-given address after paying to the Cashier a non-refundable amount of Php 500.00 only.
c) All Bids must be submitted to the Office of the Chairman - LIVECOR Bids and Awards Committee attention to the BAC Secretariat not later than 2:00 P.M of February 06, 2006.
d) The Livelihood Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formalities therein and to accept such bid as may be deemed advantageous to the Corporation.

Schedule of Pre-Bidding Conference will be on January 16, 2006, 2:00 P.M. at the Office of the Administrator's Conference Room, LIVECOR, 7/F One Corporate Plaza, 845 A. Arnaiz Ave., Legaspi Vill., Makati City.

For further inquiries, please call Ms. Gigi Buenaventura (Division Chief - Estate Development and Management) at tel. no. 817-0439/cell no.0917-5277897 or Mr. Eduardo Sajonia (BAC Secretariat) at tel. no. 817-0771/ cell no. 0921-2783769.

(Sgd.) **E. ALEXIS G. SEVIDAL**
Chairman, LIVECOR Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–Jan. 8 & 9, 2006)

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
Ang Bangkong May Damdaming-Bayan
1598 M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. J. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos. 522-0000; 526-0100 connecting all departments

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the projects as stated below:

ITB No.	Item / Description	Approved Budget	Source of Funds
2005-333(2)	1 lot Supply and Delivery of the following: • 50 Metaframe Presentation Server, Enterprise Edition for Windows-x-1 Concurrent User Connection Pack with Subscription Advantage • 1 Metaframe Presentation Server 4.0 for Windows-English Mediakit • 1 CITRIX Standard Support Agreement - APAC	P 2,265,000.00	LBP Funds

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/ Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

Bidding for the above requirements is scheduled on February 1, 2006 at 1:00 PM and pertinent Bid Documents may be obtained from the General Services Department, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila, **upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00.**

Interested suppliers are requested to attend the Pre-Bid Conference scheduled on **January 20, 2006** at the 25th Floor, Conference Room, LANDBANK Plaza, Malate, Manila.

All particulars relative to **Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract** shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of **RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).**

LANDBANK reserves the right to reject any or all bids, declare the bidding a failure or waive any required formality therein and make an award to the bidder whose bid is the most advantageous to the Bank.

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

Resthouse. Furniture Transporter. Moving Art Gallery. Picnic Area. Library. Family Reunion Place. Theater Props Conveyor. Marriage Proposal Venue. Band Equipment Hauler. Pillow Fight Arena. Prayer Room. Laundry Basket. School Bus. Bed and Breakfast. Grocery Cart. Surfboard Storage. Giant Cubbyhole. Star-gazing Location. Phone Booth. Baby Mover. Camping Grounds. Playground. Lounge. Salon. Delivery Van. Gym Locker. Lunchroom. Powder Room. Golf Cart. Romantic Getaway.

OPTRA
OPTRA Wagon
1.6

Because it's a Wagon.

CHEVROLET OPTRA WAGON

Anything goes with the new Chevrolet Optra Wagon. Enjoy the creature comforts and smooth ride of the Optra sedan plus the practicality of a station wagon. Revel in its newly developed gray interiors and metallic instrument panel trim. And with 60:40 split-folding rear backseat, tonneau cover and cargo organizer– why, you can even take the kitchen sink with you.

3-YEAR OR 100,000 KM. WARRANTY (WHICHEVER COMES FIRST)

CHEVROLET 24hr. ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE

GM CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE CENTER 1800-1888-4646

Test drive today at your nearest Chevrolet/GM Autoworld dealer: MAKATI 867-8183 to 87 • QUEZON AVENUE 374-1250 TO 59 • SHAW 535-4944, 533-6349, 533-8375, 533-1263 • PASIG 672-1612 to 14, 672-1486 • ALABANG 771-1206 to 09 • NORTH EDSA 374-9992 to 97, 374-9963 • MANILA 564-0129 • CEBU (032) 234-0426 to 29 • PAMPANGA (045) 963-3333, (045) 860-2000 • DAVAO (082) 300-7777, (082) 235-3811 • DAGUPAN (075) 523-7777, (075) 523-1835, (075) 515-5577

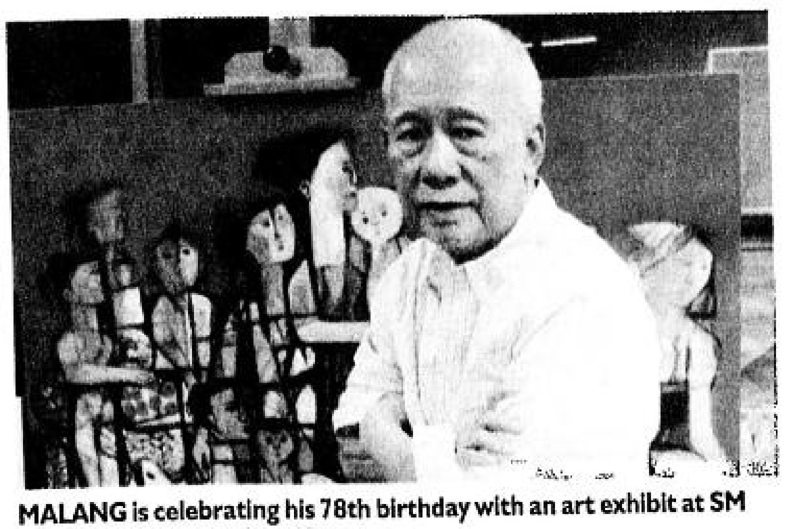
For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph
Text us your feedback: inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

LIFESTYLE

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**
Subsection Editor **Lito B. Zulueta**

MONDAY **ARTS & BOOKS** ● TUESDAY **FITNESS** ● WEDNESDAY **2BU** ● THURSDAY **FOOD** ● FRIDAY **FASHION & BEAUTY**

MALANG at the opening of his one-man exhibit in Taipei, Taiwan, ROC in June 1980. Among his guests were Ang Kiukok (left) and James Onglepho (right).



MALANG is celebrating his 78th birthday with an art exhibit at SM Mega Art Center on Jan. 20.

Mauro Malang Santos and James Onglepho share a 50-year friendship that has benefited Philippine art. The latter remembers the good times

MALANG at work in his studio (1980)

THE CHOPSTICKS CLUB

Malang and I

By James Onglepho
Contributor

I MET MALANG FOR THE first time at the Philippine Art Gallery in November 1956. Malang then was working at the Manila Chronicle. Through him, I also met Liborio Gatbonton (Gat), the art editor of the Manila Chronicle.

We became good friends, and every Thursday night, I would visit Malang and Gat at work with other artist-friends. Then we would proceed to a Chinese restaurant in Ongpin. Thus, the "Chopsticks Club" was formed.

After dinner, sometimes we would take a taxi to the cabaret in Sta. Ana. Mostly playing at the cabaret was sweet music. Once the music started, customers would enter the dancing hall, and then pick from about 200 hostesses on standby.

We weren't good dancers, so we just followed the music and swayed our bodies while our feet remained still. After the dance, we would hand over our tickets, worth 20 centavos each, to our dance partners. We would leave the dancing hall again, and wait for the next music to play.

We usually spent about two to three pesos for the whole evening, and every minute was worth it.

Just like the cabaret, we also looked forward to visiting the Philippine Art Gallery, Contemporary Art Gallery, and other galleries on Mabini.

Among us, Malang is the most mild-mannered. He is a soft-spoken man with an easy grin. And when he smiles, you can barely see his eyes.

His "Chinese" features do not end there. He is also very much interested in Chinese culture. He likes drinking tea, uses chopsticks when dining, and even hangs out in Chinese bookstores for hours like a true-blooded Chinese. He can be easily mistaken for a humble, friendly Chinese scholar.

Newspaper artist

Born in 1928 in Manila, Mauro Malang Santos used his mother's name as artist pen name in loving remembrance of his mother. He studied at the University of the Philippines School of Fine Arts for only half a semester, and then began looking for work.

In 1947, he tried applying for a job at an advertising company on Dasmariñas Street, Manila. Seeing about 200 people in line for job interviews, he thought he didn't have much of a chance of getting hired.

Then, passing by Jones Bridge to Intramuros, Aduana Street, he saw the sign, "Wanted: Art Assistant," beside the door of the Manila Chronicle building. He went inside and gave it a try. Malang impressed his interviewer, and was offered the job immediately.

After one week, though, Malang also heard from the advertising company where he first applied. The letter, which was sent by special delivery, indicated that Malang also passed that earlier job interview. At the time, Malang was already with the Manila Chronicle. His life would have been totally different if he got into advertising first.

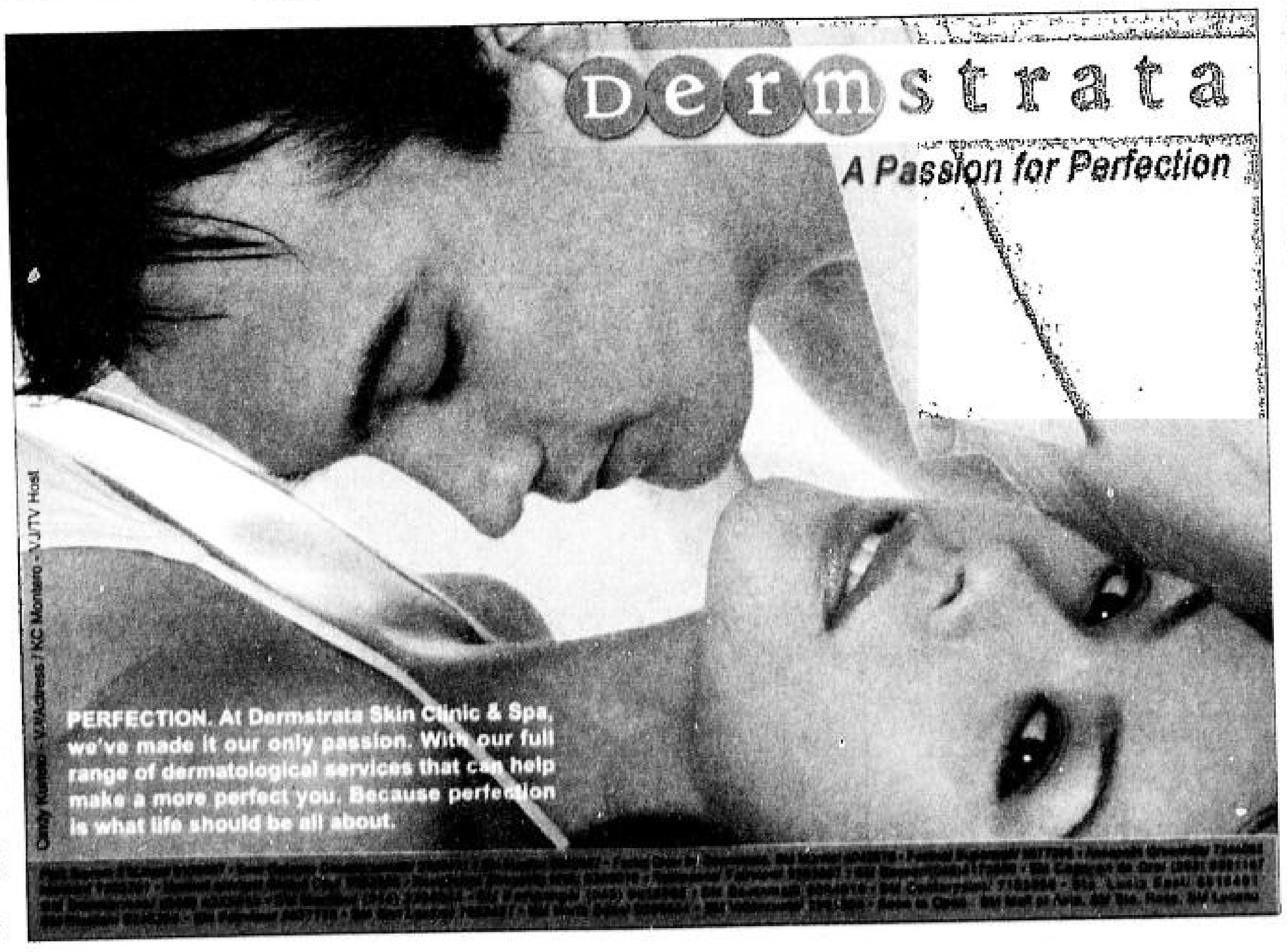
At the Chronicle, Malang was in charge of the art design and layout. He also drew cartoons. His starting salary was P120 a month, and by the time he resigned in 1964, he was earning as much as P250 a month.

Biggest perks

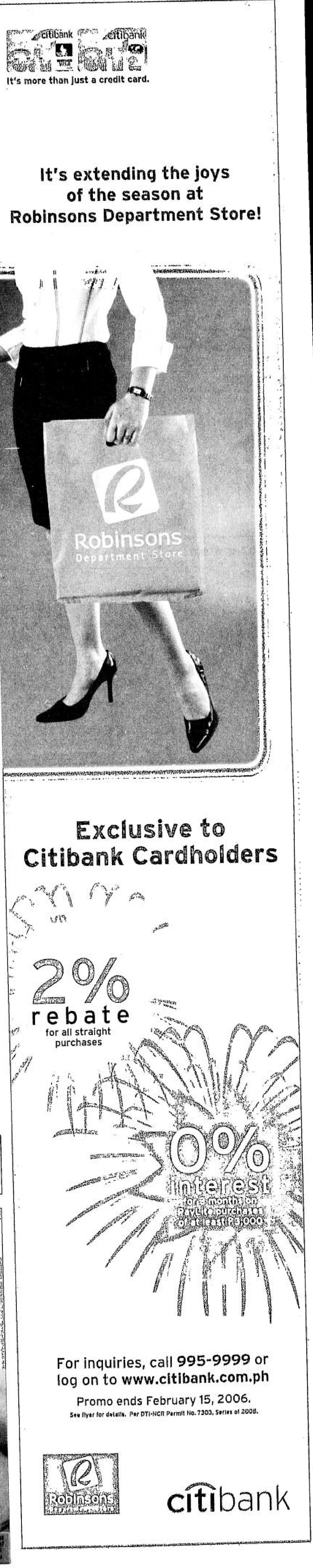
His biggest perks, though, were meeting noted painters like Vicente Manansala, Carlos "Botong" Francisco and H.R. Ocampo, who were all major artistic influences.

MALANG/ C3

Rizal dairy farms
We Deliver Organic Vegetables & Fresh Dairy Products
Tel.# 6698177 / 658-4779
email: rizaldairy@pacific.net.ph



PERFECTION. At Dermstrata Skin Clinic & Spa, we've made it our only passion. With our full range of dermatological services that can help make a more perfect you. Because perfection is what life should be all about.



It's extending the joys of the season at Robinsons Department Store!

Exclusive to Citibank Cardholders

2% rebate for all straight purchases

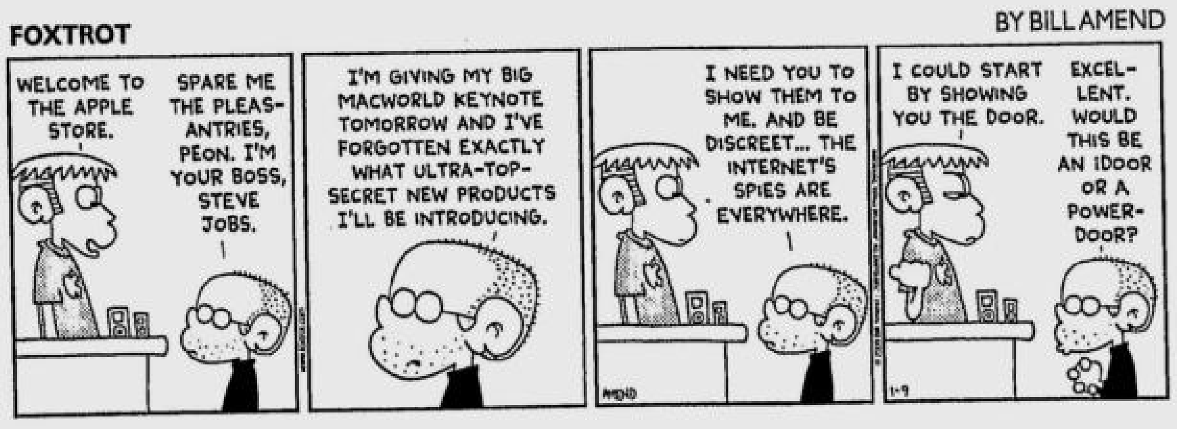
For inquiries, call 995-9999 or log on to www.citibank.com.ph

Promo ends February 15, 2006.

See flyer for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 7303, Series of 2005.

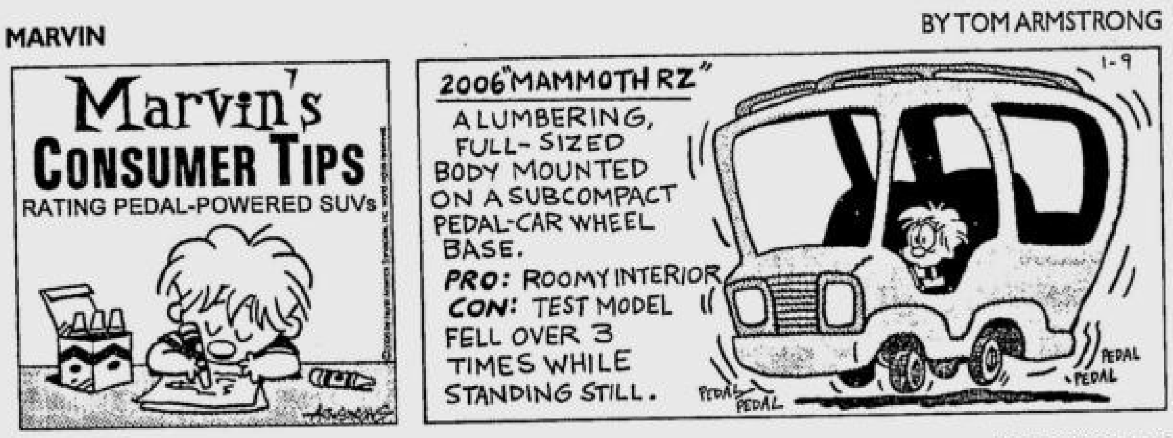
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


WELCOME TO THE APPLE STORE.
SPARE ME THE PLEASANTRIES, PEON. I'M YOUR BOSS, STEVE JOBS.
I'M GIVING MY BIG MACWORLD KEYNOTE TOMORROW AND I'VE FORGOTTEN EXACTLY WHAT ULTRA-TOP-SECRET NEW PRODUCTS I'LL BE INTRODUCING.
I NEED YOU TO SHOW THEM TO ME. AND BE DISCREET... THE INTERNET'S SPIES ARE EVERYWHERE.
I COULD START BY SHOWING YOU THE DOOR.
EXCELLENT. WOULD THIS BE AN IDOOR OR A POWERDOOR?
AMEND
1-9

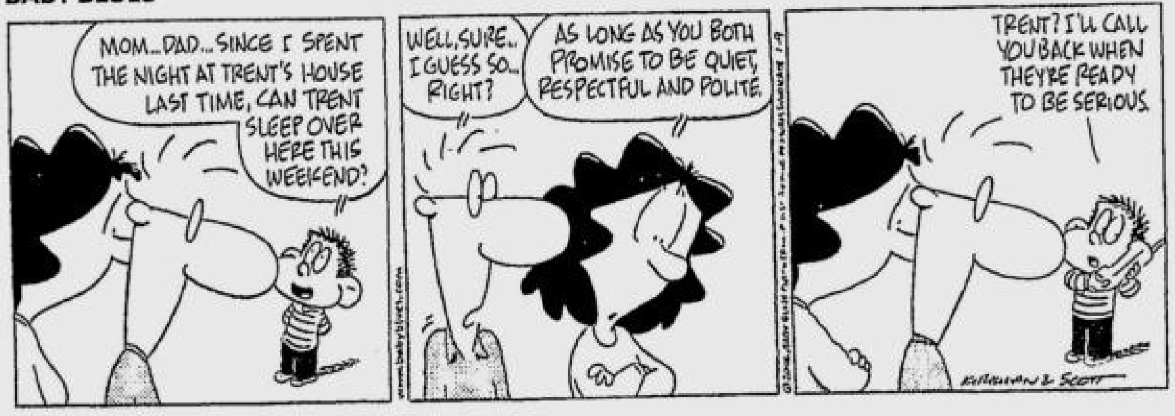
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


Marvin's CONSUMER TIPS
RATING PEDAL-POWERED SUVs
2006 "MAMMOTH RZ"
A LUMBERING, FULL-SIZED BODY MOUNTED ON A SUBCOMPACT PEDAL-CAR WHEEL BASE.
PRO: ROOMY INTERIOR
CON: TEST MODEL FELL OVER 3 TIMES WHILE STANDING STILL.
PEDAL PEDAL
PEDAL PEDAL
1-9

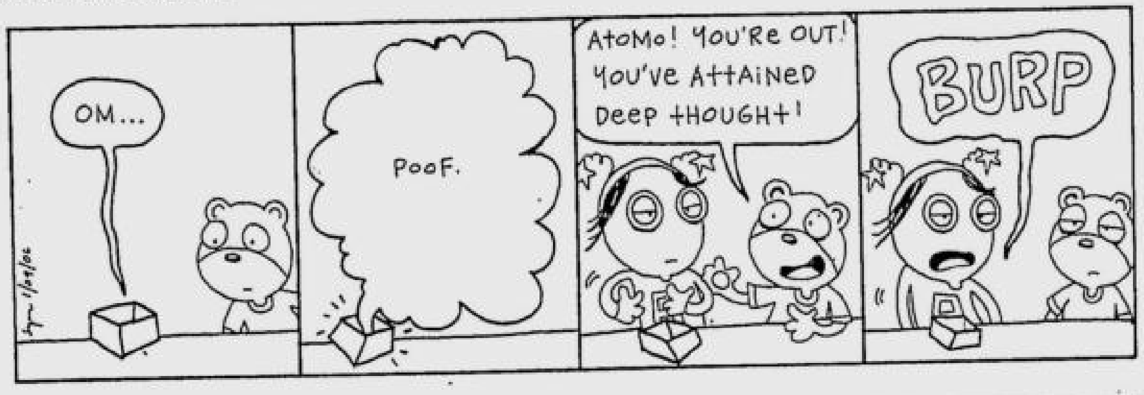
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


MOM...DAD...SINCE I SPENT THE NIGHT AT TRENT'S HOUSE LAST TIME, CAN TRENT SLEEP OVER HERE THIS WEEKEND?
WELL, SURE.. I GUESS SO.. RIGHT?
AS LONG AS YOU BOTH PROMISE TO BE QUIET, RESPECTFUL AND POLITE.
TRENT? I'LL CALL YOU BACK WHEN THEY'RE READY TO BE SERIOUS.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


OM...
PooF.
AtoMo! You're OUT! You've AttAINeD Deep tHOUGHt!
BURP

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're willful, purposeful and resourceful. You get what you want. You work patiently for your goals. Essentially, you're ambitious. You constantly strive for new and higher standards for yourself. In the year ahead, you will say goodbye to some things and let go of other things in order to create space for new things to begin.

Birthdate of: Gracie Fields, comedian; Joan Baez, singer; Simone de Beauvoir, writer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): The year 2006 will bring you good fortune through the wealth of others. People will let you use what they own. You might inherit or receive gifts. Lucky you.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): In this coming year, all your closest relationships will improve. Partnerships will become lucky for you. They will certainly be a source of joy.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): This is definitely a year to improve your job! You might get a new job; your evil boss might move on; or you get new duties that you like. (Sounds good to me.)

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): This is the year to plan a vacation. Some of you will also increase your family through having children. It's a wonderful year for play and romance!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Home, family and real estate matters will be enormously rewarding for you this year. You will truly enjoy time spent at home with your family. Your private life will be enriched.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You feel unusually optimistic and happy this year. The reasons will be different for each of you, but I do know that you have greater faith in your future. Relations with siblings will improve.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): It's your turn to earn more money this year. Expect it, and it will come. Of course, you have to get out of bed. (Unless you make a living testing mattresses.)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): For the first time in 12 years, lucky Jupiter is in your sign. This attracts many opportunities and influential people to you. It's a fortunate year for you.

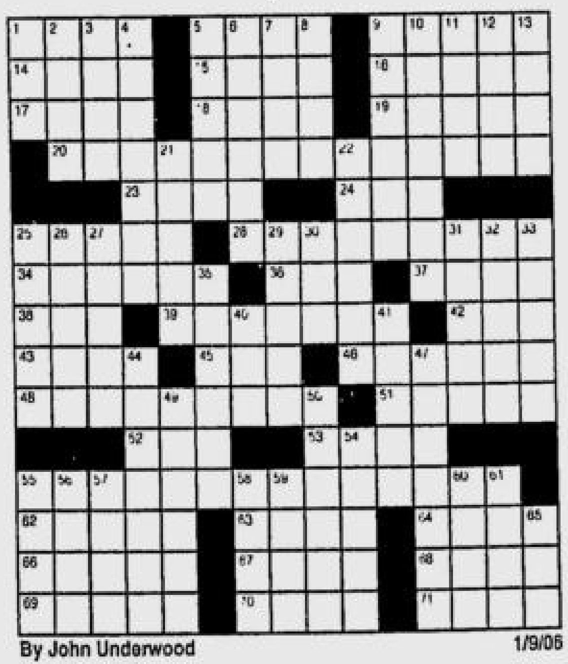
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): In a quiet way, your inner, spiritual world will be stirred this year. You want to touch base with something that is meaningful to you deep within.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You can expect your popularity to increase in the coming year. Meet new friends. Be friendly. Join clubs and organizations. Be open to new faces.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Lucky Jupiter is slowly moving across the top of your chart. This bodes extremely well for your career. Expect job opportunities that please you.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Opportunities in publishing, travel and dealing with foreign countries are likely in the year ahead. Many of you will explore educational and training benefits as well.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By John Underwood
New York, NY

1/9/06

ACROSS
1 Wild guess
5 Gravy or love follower
9 Book of the world
14 Medicinal portion
15 BMW rival
16 Recumbent
17 Worldwide, briefly
18 White dwarf or red giant
19 Five: pref.
20 Olympics runner-up
23 Korea/China border river
24 Sick
25 In trouble with
28 Glowing gas
34 Patted baby's back
36 Punter's digit
37 Loafer or slipper
38 __ deco
39 Small-time gambler
42 Pub potable
43 North Pacific salmon
45 Great Lakes canals
46 Official seal
48 Steam locomotive
51 Refuse
52 Witnessed
53 Pere's partner
55 Hollywood bombshell
62 Kidney-related
63 First of 13 popes
64 Far down
66 Type of orange
67 Bridge position
68 Cherbourg she
69 Wined and dined
70 Apart from this
71 One Simpson

DOWN
1 Star Wars, initially
2 Lots and lots
3 __ Spumante
4 Bankrupt
5 Swiss city on the Rhine
6 Overtake and pass
7 West or Arkin
8 Wear out
9 Disgust
10 Ivy supporter
11 Anderson of "WKRP..."
12 Aardvark food
13 Pants part
21 Gentleman's gentleman
22 Restaurant patrons
25 Summers in the Far East?
26 Hullabaloo
27 Correct: pref.
29 Cultural values
30 Tic-tac-toe win
31 Lake Volta location
32 Golfer's targets
33 Saw's cutters
35 Repudiate
40 Neighbor of Swed.
41 Funny-car fuel
44 Performing
47 Beowulf's monster
49 Greeted
50 Decorate with a raised design
54 In crowd
55 Univ. teacher
56 __-majesty
57 Art school subj.
58 Peter Fonda title role
59 Diner offering
60 Sub shop
61 Shocking swimmers?
65 Wee vegetable

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

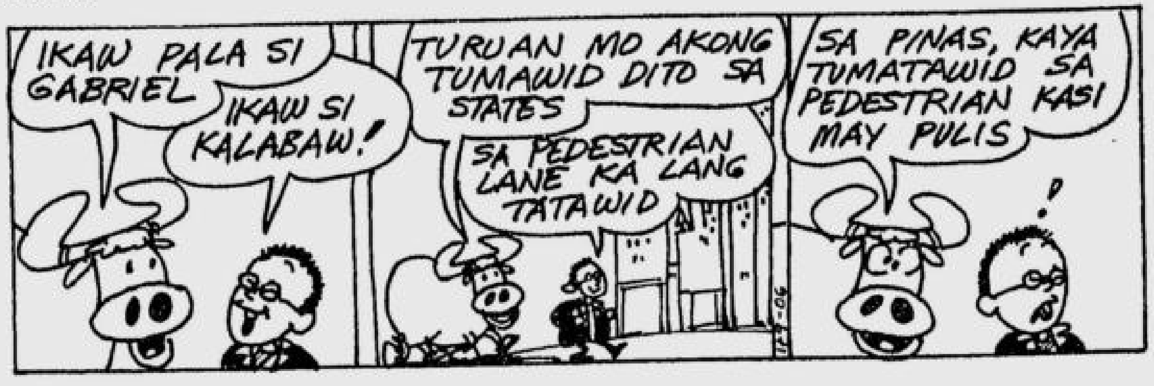
S	H	E	E	T	■	S	T	A	R	S	H	I	P	S
T	O	N	T	O	■	E	R	I	E	C	A	N	A	L
A	N	G	E	R	■	M	E	N	N	O	N	I	T	E
N	O	R	■	T	A	I	■	T	E	L	■	G	E	D
D	R	A	G	O	O	N	S	■	G	A	T	O	R	S
S	A	V	A	N	N	A	H	■	E	R	A	■	■	■
P	R	E	M	I	E	R	E	■	R	I	P	O	F	F
A	I	R	■	■	■	S	A	C	■	■	■	R	I	A
T	A	S	T	E	S	■	T	H	E	S	A	I	N	T
■	■	■	O	L	E	■	H	A	V	I	N	G	A	T
E	M	C	E	E	S	■	E	R	E	C	T	I	L	E
R	O	E	■	C	T	S	■	I	L	K	■	N	I	N
M	U	L	E	T	E	E	R	S	■	B	R	A	Z	E
A	N	I	S	E	T	T	E	S	■	E	A	T	E	R
S	T	A	T	E	S	I	D	E	■	D	E	E	D	S

(C)2006 Tribune Media Services, Inc.
All rights reserved.

1/9/06

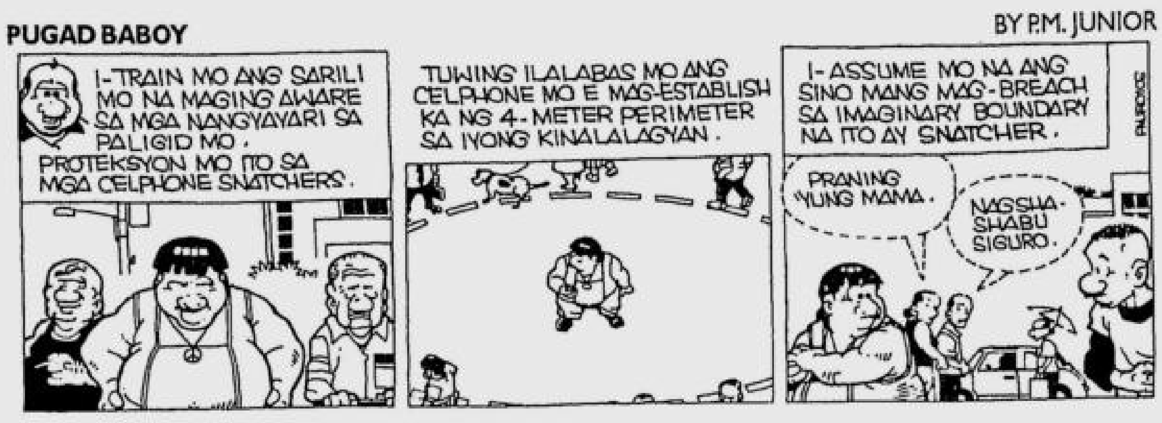
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


IKAW PALA SI GABRIEL
IKAW SI KALABAW!
TURUAN MO AKONG TUMAWID DITO SA STATES
SA PEDESTRIAN LANE KA LANG TATAWID
SA PINAS, KAYA TUMATAWID SA PEDESTRIAN KASI MAY PULIS
!
1-1-06

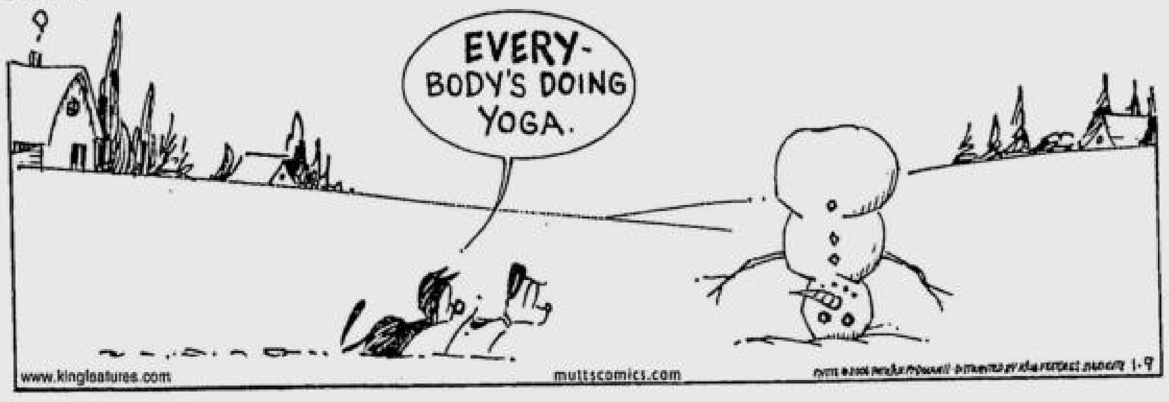
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


I-TRAIN MO ANG SARILI MO NA MAGING AWARE SA MGA NANGYAYARI SA PALIGID MO. PROTEKSYON MO ITO SA MGA CELPHONE SNATCHERS.
TUWING ILALABAS MO ANG CELPHONE MO E MAG-ESTABLISH KA NG 4-METER PERIMETER SA IYONG KINALALAGYAN.
I-ASSUME MO NA ANG SINO MANG MAG-BREACH SA IMAGINARY BOUNDARY NA ITO AY SNATCHER.
PRANING 'YUNG MAMA.
NAGSHA-SHABU SIGURO.

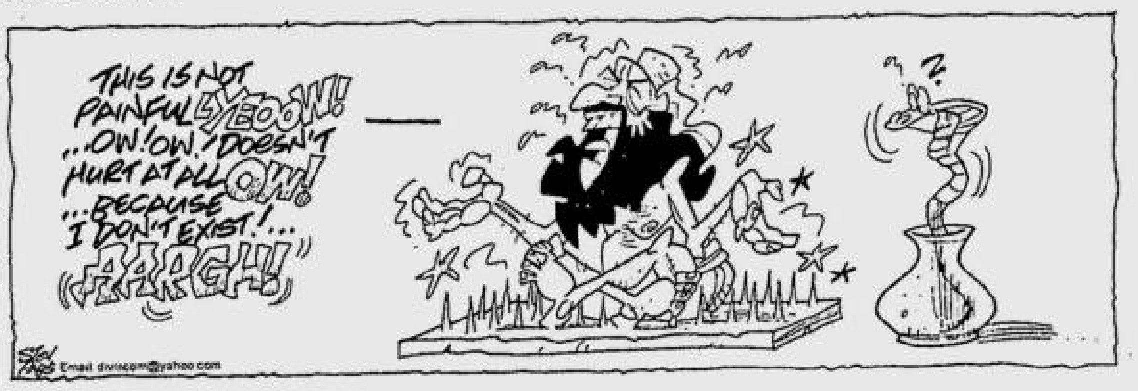
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


EVERY-BODY'S DOING YOGA.
www.kingfeatures.com
muttscomics.com
1-9

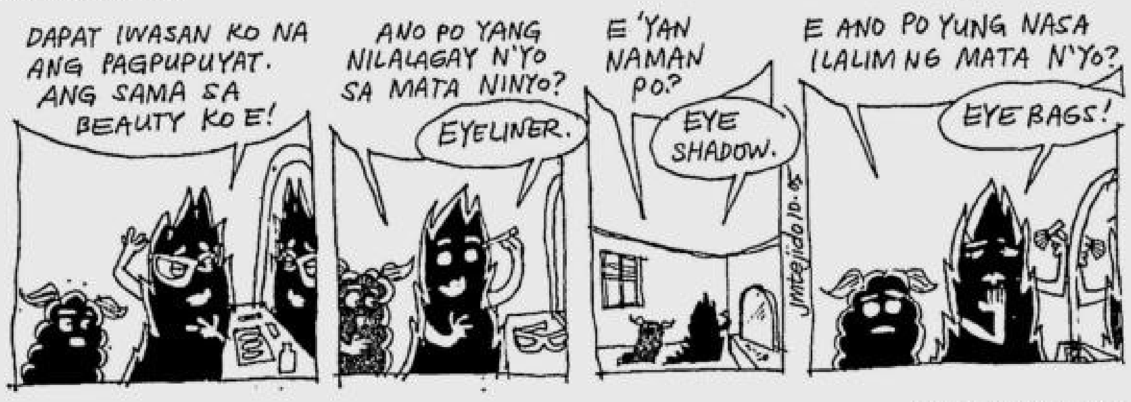
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


THIS IS NOT PAINFUL..YEOOW! ..OW! OW! DOESN'T HURT AT ALL..OW! ...BECAUSE I DON'T EXIST!... AARGH!
Email divincom@yahoo.com

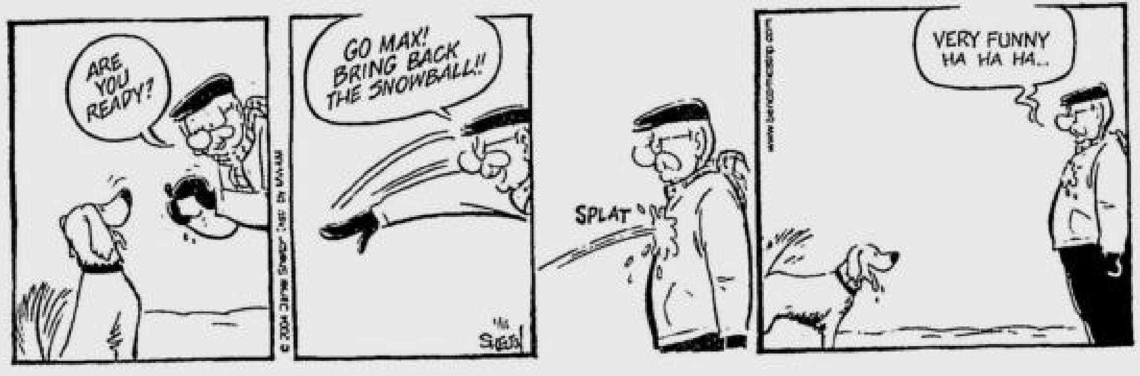
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


DAPAT IWASAN KO NA ANG PAGPUPUYAT. ANG SAMA SA BEAUTY KO E!
ANO PO YANG NILALAGAY N'YO SA MATA NINYO?
EYELINER.
E 'YAN NAMAN PO?
EYE SHADOW.
E ANO PO YUNG NASA ILALIM NG MATA N'YO?
EYE BAGS!
jmtejido 10.05

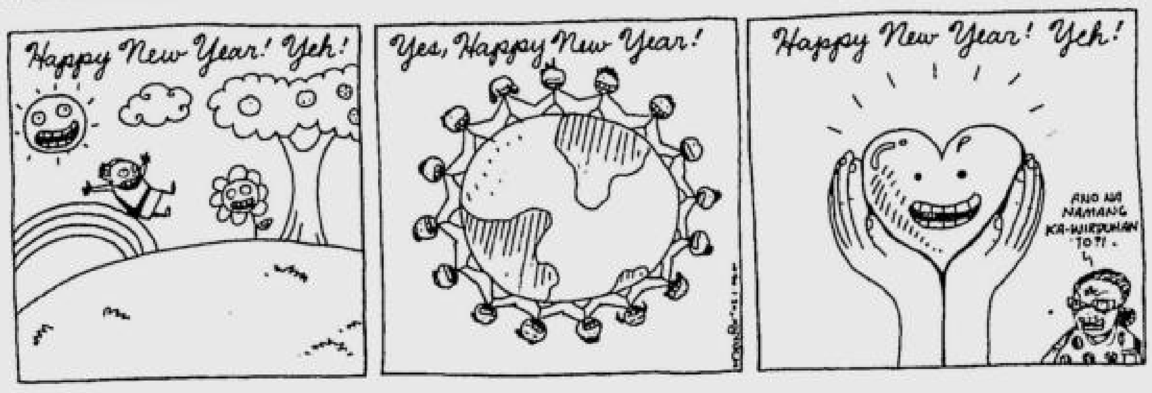
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


ARE YOU READY?
GO MAX! BRING BACK THE SNOWBALL!!
SPLAT
VERY FUNNY HA HA HA...

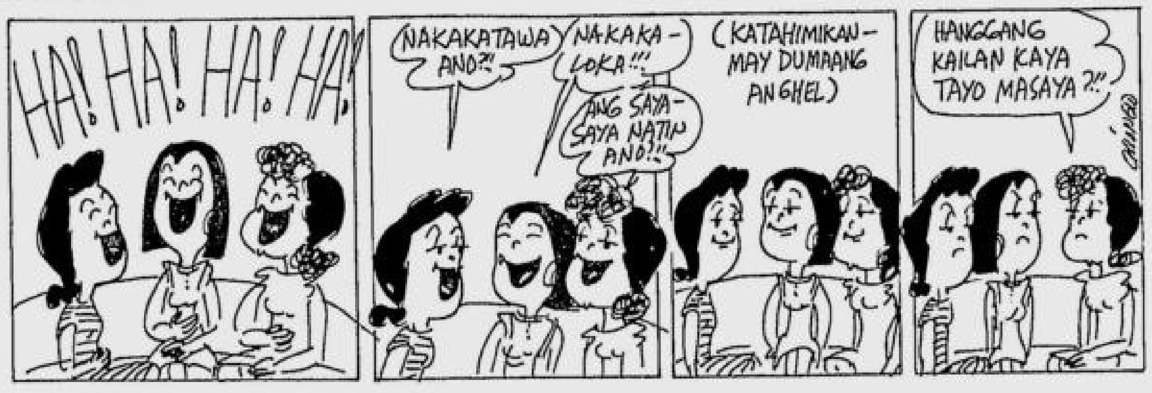
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


Happy New Year! Yeh!
Yes, Happy New Year!
Happy New Year! Yeh!
ANO NA NAMANG KA-WIRDUHAN TO?!

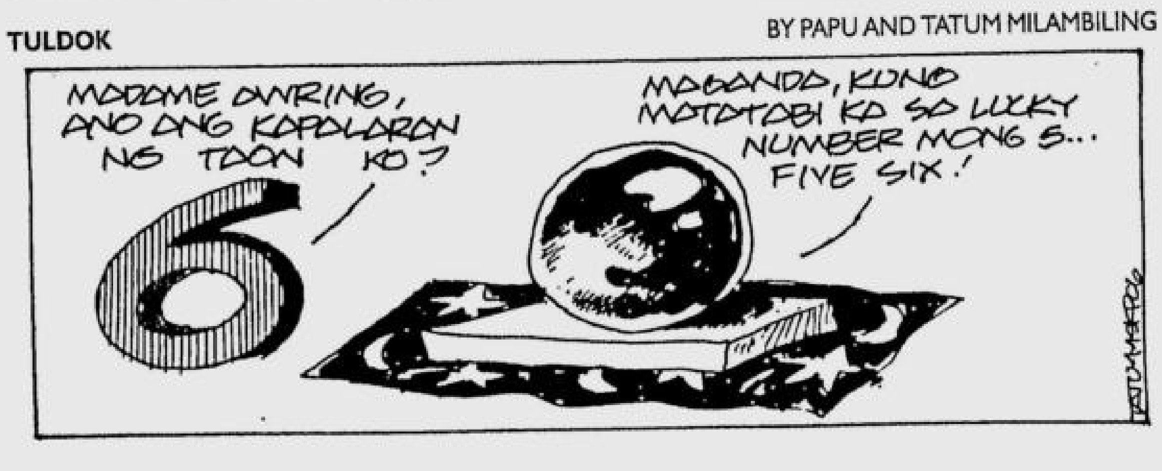
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

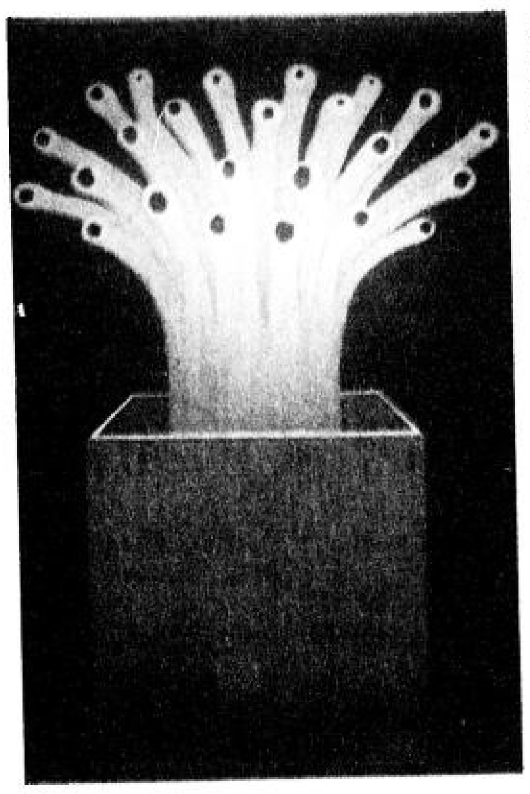

HA! HA! HA! HA!
NAKAKATAWA ANO?!
NAKAKA-LOKA!!!
ANG SAYA-SAYA NATIN ANO!!!
(KATAHIMIKAN-MAY DUMAANG ANGHEL)
HANGGANG KAILAN KAYA TAYO MASAYA?!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


MADAME AWRING, ANO ANG KAPALARAN NG TAON KO?
MAGANDA, KUNG MATATAYA KA SA LUCKY NUMBER MONG 5... FIVE SIX!
6

Rock Drilon holds simultaneous exhibits at Mag:net



"NO. 56"

JUMPSTARTING MAG:NET'S CALENDAR for 2006 is an exhibition by Rock Drilon of paintings spanning the last 20 years of his artistic practice.

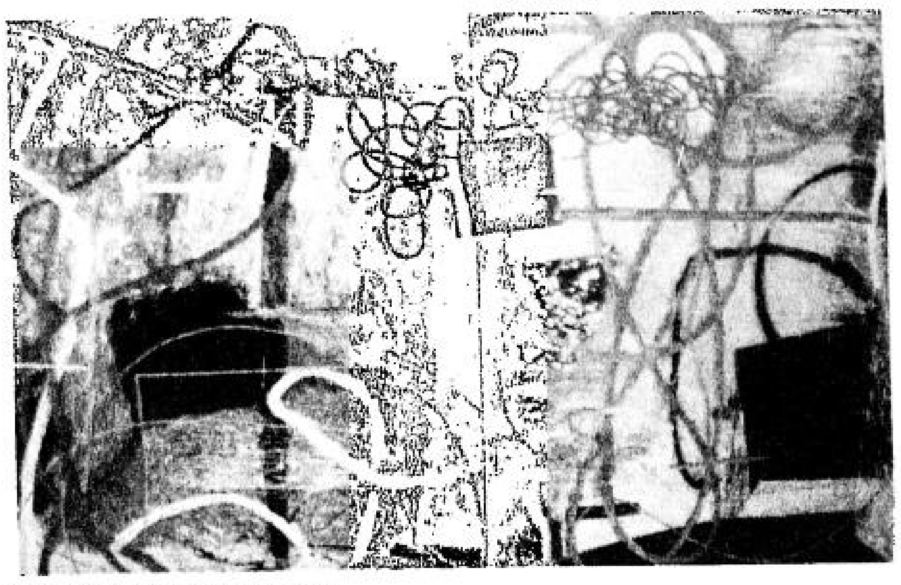
The paintings, mostly done in acrylic, according to him, are the accumulated "outpourings, testaments, koans spun from the multiple neurons of thoughts and emotional states based on actual personal events, however indirectly, or from spontaneous outbursts of creativity."

"Diaristic," the show, charts Drilon's departures and returns to specific forms and motifs he has used in most of his works, such as the spiraling serpentine knot that may be traced to the earliest painting included in the show.

One in a series of paintings done in 1986, "No. 56" is a hydra spawned out of a box, blooming in its green iridescence, with its ends, though stumped, seemingly lurching on deceptively benign.

Through the years the hydra forms have become ominous, intertwining with other forms of colored planes, anamorphic geometric solids and axes, organic brain-like tubings and gourds. In some, these are contrasted by short brisk strokes, feathering in luminous swathes of white, suggesting shedding and stripping over splattered and blotched patches that are to Dubuffet "impressions of teeming matter evocative of all kinds of indeterminate textures, including galaxies and nebulae."

All evoke movement, more than in the arbitrarily layered composition, but also in the diverse application of paint, contrasted by the channeled energy with which Drilon sparks each one.



"RESONUANCE (Dyptych)"

Drilon said he associates the way he paints to dancing. He explained he moves around the canvas, picking up pace or dallying through the slow waltz of a sweeping stroke.

Hence, "Dance," which is painted directly on the walls of the cramped CR Gallery of Mag:net Café in Katipunan, is Drilon's ballet of solitary creation.

However reconfigured the recurrent themes in his works, Drilon pointed to the idea of a Gordian knot persistently wound and unwound, which he said rings true of his struggle with the idea of creation, "as primordial as the universe itself."

Drilon's painting's are simultaneously on view at all Mag:Net galleries: until Jan. 15, at ABS at The Loop, ABS-CBN, ELJ Compound, Mother Ignacia Ave., Quezon City; until Jan. 30, at Paseo Center, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City; until Jan. 30, at Katipunan, Quezon City; and until Jan. 15, at CR Gallery, at Mag:net, Katipunan.

Call 9293191 or 4352631. E-mail magnetcafekatips@yahoo.com.ph or visit www.magnet.com.ph

Malang and I

From page C1

In 1955, he, along with colleagues Gat, Larry Alcala, Elmer Abustan and Hugo Yonzon Jr., put up a gallery called Bughouse near Mabini Street. It showcased purely cartoon drawings.

Malang also began using watercolor and oil in depicting one of his earliest subjects, the *barong-barong*. Asked about his fondness for the *barong-barong*, Malang said that he saw so many of them right across the Manila Chronicle building every day. His paintings expressed how he felt for those *barong-barong* dwellers.

First solo

In 1959, when I was mounting my first one-man exhibit at the China Art Gallery beside the Manila Hotel, Malang interviewed me at the coffee shop on the second floor of the Manila Chronicle building.

We spoke lengthily, which then resulted in a four-page article to introduce my painting style in This Week, the Chronicle's Sunday magazine.

Some three years later, it was Malang's turn. He held his first one-man exhibit on Oct. 20, 1962 at the Philippine Art Gallery, where his paintings were sold at P30 each.

Malang was largely self-taught, but his works were definitely of high standard even when he was just starting. It was a very successful exhibit, launching his high stature in the Philippine art circle.

Reunion

In the 1980s, I spent my time mostly in Taipei. From 1982-1984, I exhibited my works in Kaoshuing and Taipei.

In 1992, though, I realized that my roots were in Manila. I haven't gone back to Taipei to mount exhibits since.

In August 1997, Malang, Ong Bungian and I got together again. We agreed to meet every Thursday at the Asia Art Gallery, Shangri-La Plaza Mall. Every week, one of us would take turns in hosting the lunch.

One Thursday in June 1998, Bungian didn't show up. Malang and I proceeded to National Bookstore, I bought a 12" x 18" sketchbook, and then we decided to have lunch at the food court in the basement.

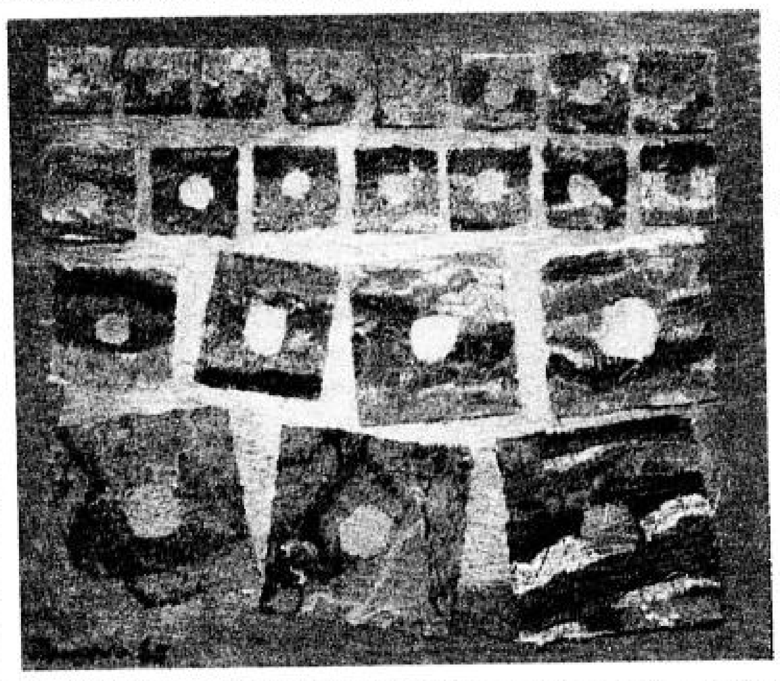
I went to the counter to order food, and left my sketchbook with Malang who went to find seats. After our lunch, we drank coffee and stayed at the Asia Art Gallery until 4 p.m.

When I got home, I brought out the sketchbook I bought, and saw that the first and second pages were filled with unfinished nude sketches. I wondered if it was a mistake, but I guessed Malang might have been the one who drew them. He might have found the time to do them while I was ordering food, and was discreet enough to seal the sketchbook back like it was never opened.

When we saw each other again at the Asia Art Gallery, I showed the sketchbook to Malang, and told him, "*Pag ginuhit mo lang ilang* lines, *sinasayang mo lang 'yung* sketch pad *ko. Kaya pakiusap lang, tapusin mo na ito. At isa pa, 'wag mong kalimutan yung* signature *mo*."

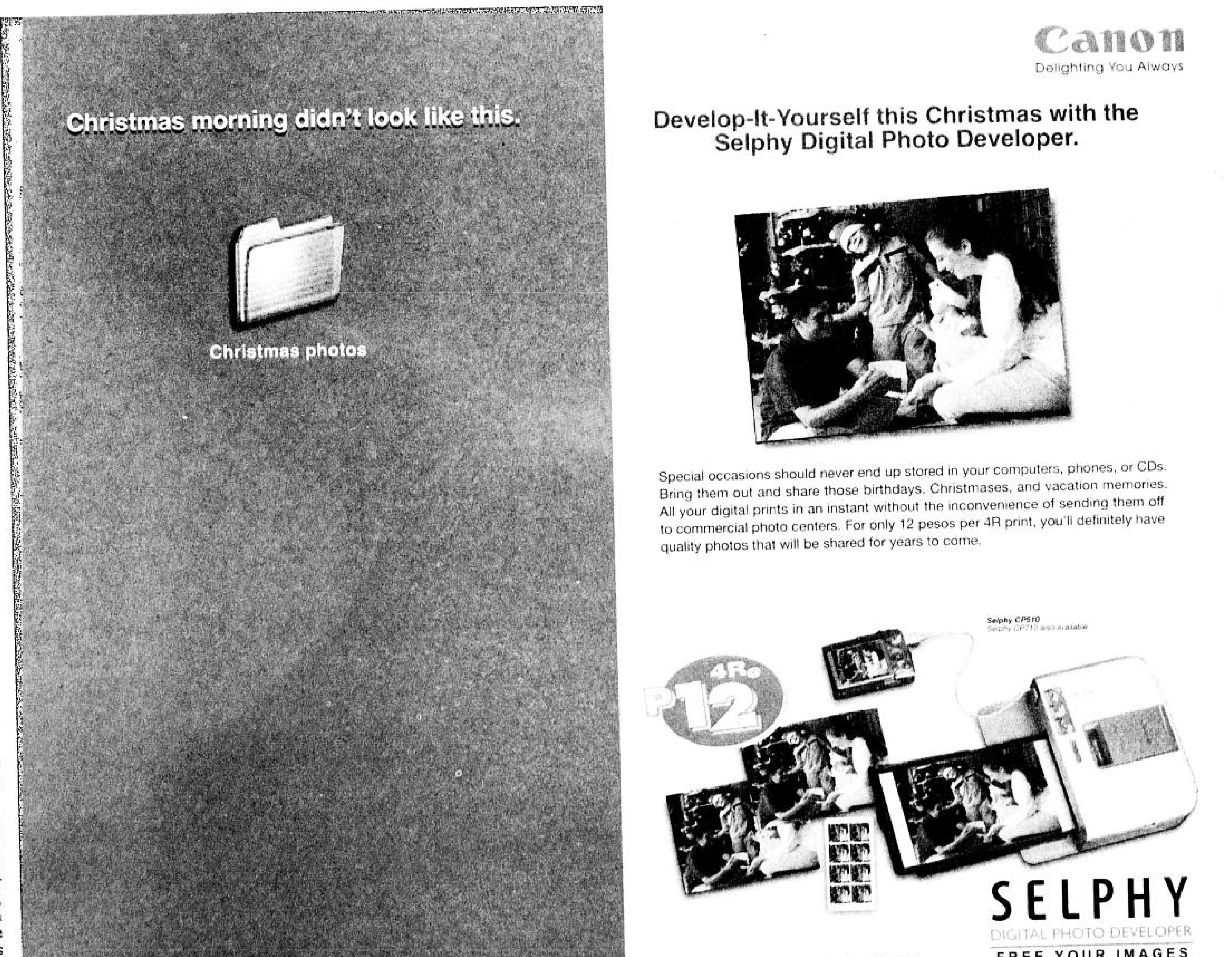
In less than two hours, he was finished with the two fine sketches. They were dated June 6, 1998, and it was the first time that I received artworks from Malang.

Malang is celebrating his 78th birthday with an art exhibit at the Art Center of SM Megamall on Jan. 20. The show is curated by West Gallery.



LIM AT WEST

Lewanda Lim will mount "Lewanda's Fabrications," Jan. 12-24, at the West Gallery (4/L, Building A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong). Lim will present 15 recent fabric collages, done over the last six months, products "of my love for collecting odds and ends of varying materials." Call 6341284.



Christmas morning didn't look like this.

Christmas photos

Canon
Delighting You Always

Develop-It-Yourself this Christmas with the Selphy Digital Photo Developer.

Special occasions should never end up stored in your computers, phones, or CDs. Bring them out and share those birthdays, Christmases, and vacation memories. All your digital prints in an instant without the inconvenience of sending them off to commercial photo centers. For only 12 pesos per 4R print, you'll definitely have quality photos that will be shared for years to come.

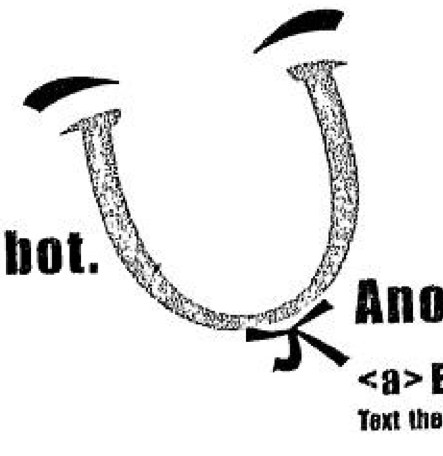
Selphy CP510
Selphy CP710 also available

4R@ P12

SELPHY
DIGITAL PHOTO DEVELOPER
FREE YOUR IMAGES

Develop photos in panoramic, 4R, 3R, credit card and mini label sizes.

Insist on an original warranty issued by Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc.
Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc. 2F Marvin Plaza, 2153 Don Chino Roces Avenue cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City Tel.: 884-9000 • Fax: 810-9797 • info@canon.com.ph • www.canon.com.ph
METRO MANILA: Abenson • Ambassador • Anson Emporium • Automatic Center • BCG Computers • Brentcom • Camerahaus • Complink • CSI • CTC Photo Center • Dynamic Ultratech • Electroworld • Enigma Technologies • Island Photo • Kameraworld • Microstation • New Canary Photo •
NT Computers • Octagon • PC 4 Me • PC Corner • PC Options • Photoline • Picture City • Quickline Micro Commercial • Silicon Valley • SM Appliance • Villman • Western Marketing PROVINCIAL: AAC-Tech • Shoppers Mart • Color Master • Colours Foto Shop • Solid Triangle • Mark Jellicon



Happy ang tumatalon, maraming naaabot.

Anong meron ang taong happy?
<a> Energy <b> Stress
Text the letter of your answer to 2910 for a chance to win special prizes.

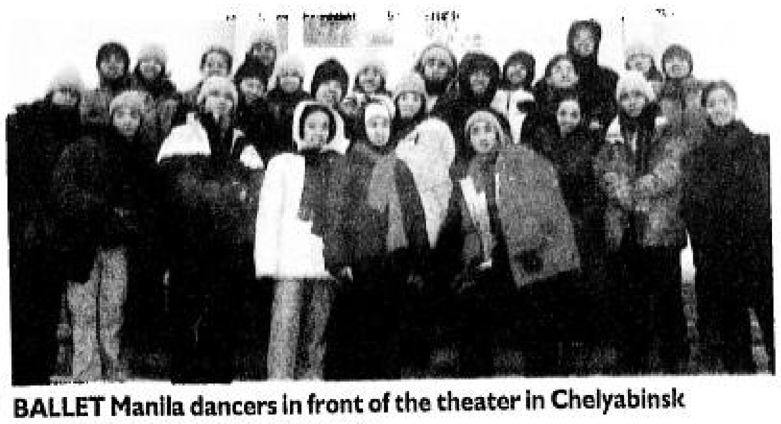
Promo Period: January 1 to 14, 2006 • Per DOH-BFAD Permit No.0052 Series of 2006

Ballet Manila conquers Russia

BALLET MANILA, ONE OF THE Philippines' foremost classical dance companies schooled in Russian techniques, made a well-applauded debut last month in Yekaterinburg, an industrial city best known as the site of the martyrdom of Tsar Nicholas II and his family during the Russian Revolution.

The 26-member troupe, led by ballet master Osias Barroso, delighted Russian audiences last Dec. 11 and 13, at the 1,200-seat Dvorets Molodezhi (Youth Palace) concert hall at the 1905 Square in the center of the Yekaterinburg, the third stop in a 16-day, seven-city tour of Russia's highly industrialized Ural Region, which traditionally forms the divide between Europe and Asia.

The highlight, Barroso said, was the sustained applause given by the audience for a purely Filipino program that included OPM (Original Pilipino Music) hits—well-loved favorites by Filipino-American audiences in past tours in the United States but all but unknown in Russia.

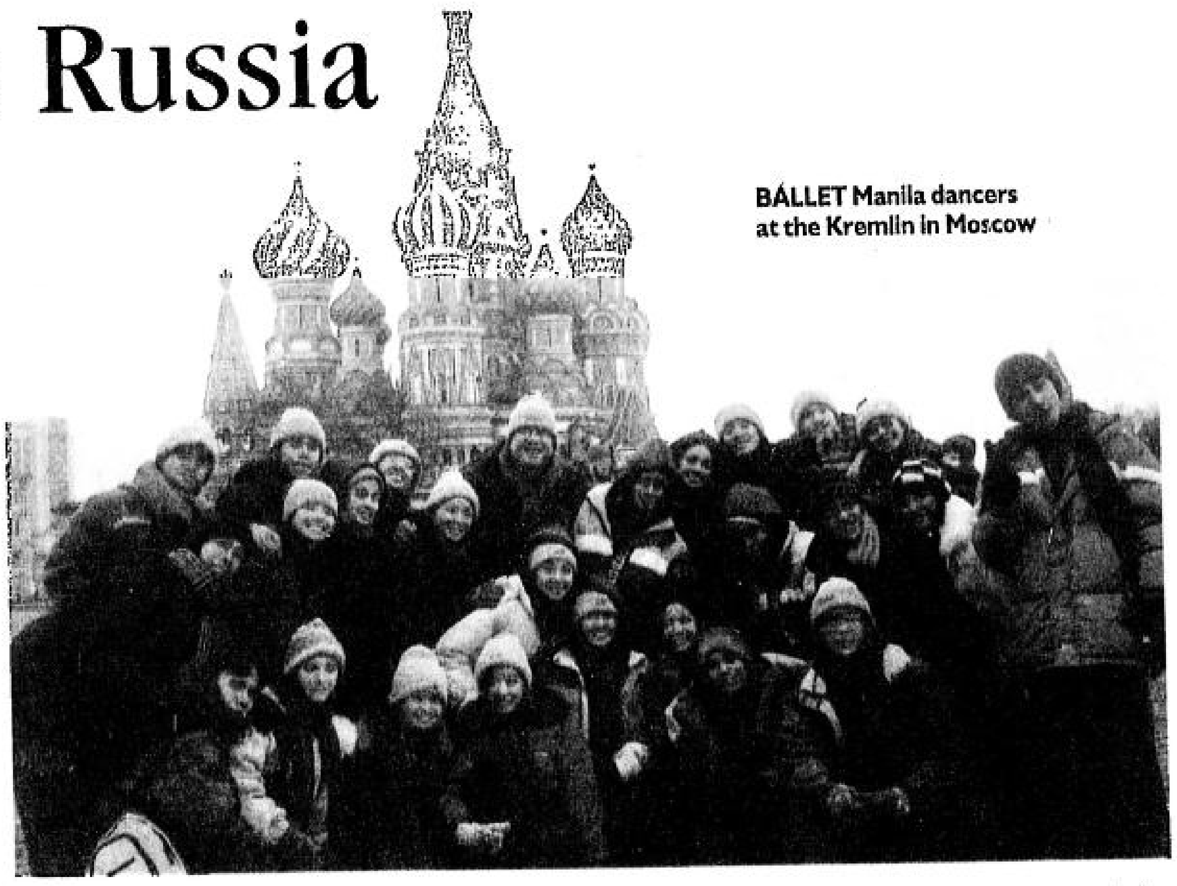

BALLET Manila dancers in front of the theater in Chelyabinsk showing the Ballet Manila poster

"We were quite surprised with the reaction of the audiences here," Barroso said. "They laughed, expressed surprise and clapped at the right moments. You'd think we were performing for a Filipino crowd." A number of spectators even requested to buy CDs of the program soundtrack.

It was the first time Ballet Manila ever performed the Filipino program for a completely non-Filipino audience, the cast members said. Normally, the group would reserve the Filipino program for Filipino communities overseas. This time, the concert organizers from all the seven cities made special requests for the inclusion of distinctly indigenous elements.

The other surprise of the two-day run in Russia's fifth biggest city was how well the Russian audience, basically reared on a steady cultural diet of ballet classics since youth, reacted to the Philippine troupe's classical program, Carmen Suite. Ballet Manila presented an original choreography by the late founder and artistic adviser Eric Cruz.

In between performances, the group took a tour of the city, in particular the Cathedral of All-Saints on the Blood, which was erected in July 2003 to mark the massacre of the Romanov family on the same site during the bloody Russian civil war that followed the October 1917 Revolution. That site, called the Ipatiev House, was torn down in 1977 on the order of First Party Sec. Boris Yeltsin.


BALLET Manila dancers at the Kremlin in Moscow

Yekaterinburg, founded in 1723 and named after St. Catherine and Peter the Great's wife, Ekaterina, is widely known as the city where Tsar Nicholas II, his wife Alexandra, and their children grand duchesses Olga, Tatiana, Maria, Anastasia and Tsarevich Alexei were executed by Bolsheviks in July 1918. They were canonized as saints by the Russian Orthodox Church in 2000.

Led by prima ballerina Lisa Macuja, a former regular performer for Russia's famous Kirov Ballet, later completed three performances in Perm, which boasts of one of the country's best opera and ballet theaters. Prior to Yekaterinburg, the group opened its 2005 tour in Magnitogorsk and Chelyabinsk, booming mining and engineering cities in Chelyabinsk region.

Ballet Manila's third tour of Russia, which serves as a prelaunch event for the commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of Philippine-Russian relations next year, ran until Dec. 21 with performances in Kirov, Izhevsk and Tyumen.

UP features 'Hudhud' and Noh

TO MARK THE 50TH YEAR OF the restoration of diplomatic ties between the Philippines and Japan, "Hudhud and Noh: A Dialogue of Cultures," a series of forums and performances on Unesco's "Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity," will be held at the Pulungang Claro M. Recto, UP Faculty Center, Diliman, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., on Jan. 11.

Chanters from Kiangan, Ifugao will perform the Hudhud. Masters Naohiko Umewaka and Jiro Fujita, with the UP Noh Ensemble, will perform the Noh. Call 4267573 or 9818500 loc. 2460.

Your new home is closer than you think.

ROCK-BOTTOM RATES!

Fixing Period	Interest Rate*	Monthly Amortization**
1-year	10.25%	P 9,817
2-year	11.00%	P10,322
3-year	11.25%	P10,493
5-year	11.50%	P10,665

* Rates apply only for new loan releases where purpose is acquisition, construction or refinancing. Rates are subject to change without prior notice.

**For every loan amount of P1,000,000 with a 20-year loan term.

Call 845-8772 or text PSBANK HOME AD <your name> <your landline nos.> <your email address> then send to 391-772 for Smart or 0917-890-2327 for Globe and other users.

Apply at any PSBank branch nationwide.

PSBank Home RATE PROTECT

Youth rally behind culture and heritage

PRIDE OF PLACE

Augusto F. Villalon

THE START OF THE YEAR IS the time to take stock of the heritage situation, to see where our heritage journey has reached, and to see whether it is arriving at its destination.

Not many thought of heritage conservation in the far-off 1980s when people believed that cultural heritage shackled us to a dark past. Old architecture held neighborhoods and towns from progress, they believed.

Progress demanded replacing the old with the new, building anew over the debris of the old. The cycle of destruction took away many outdated cultural practices that were rapidly abandoned and replaced with the new.

Progress and embracing new ideas are essential to the growth of a society. However, respecting the past is vital in keeping the thread of national continuity alive no matter the march of modernization.

There has been a change of attitudes since then. Conservation issues, the Jai Alai and Arroceros Forest Park demolitions, have become rallying points, making more people aware of their heritage. Now in many agendas is the preservation and revival of Philippine culture—from architecture to festivals, dances, literature, and so much more.

Student correspondence

Letters received recently from students at the University of Santo Tomas prove that the youth is moving into the front lines of conservation.

Mary Shella Senga comments on the revival of the traditional Misa de Gallo procession in the Parian of Cebu that ushered in the city's Christmas season last month.

"The Parian of Cebu is the symbol of change or modernization, but at the same time, (of) saving the culture and traditions that were once experienced by many... Kaguikan sa Parian shows that Cebuanos will always be proud of their heritage and they would always keep in their hearts and minds what they had before (while) coping with the 21st century."

Quennie Chiu says that since she has become aware of conservation, she has "learned more about our culture and (the) heritage of our country."

Jomar Bautista writes that "your column opened our eyes to one of the vital reasons why we (students) should continue to strive to be architects: to reestablish and revive structures that pay homage to Philippine culture and the arts. You also made us see places we failed to recognize as part of our heritage, allowing us to think that these places are part of our culture... "

Jansen Alias writes, "You have reminded me of some of the things that we sometimes are forgetting to consider in architecture, such as environment and heritage, which directly affect us... neglecting them could be detrimental (to) designing an efficient building that would hinder the growth and lives of people in it."

He continues, "Our country is facing different types of challenges today in different fields, including architecture. Really, there is much to be done in order to make more Filipinos realize the unique pride of place in different regions of the archipelago. I believe that as Filipinos, each of us have our own duty to serve our nation that is rich in heritage and treasures. You have featured how each province boasts of a natural or architectural wonder, which is great and really something to be proud of.

"Just as you wrote in some of your articles (Carcar, Cebu), I found out that nothing is impossible if only all of us, i.e. government, citizens, church, NGOs, etc., would get our act together toward one common goal."

Everyone's duty

From Johnus Mirazol come these observations, "I have become an enthusiast of architectural conservation and preservation. I think it is good that even though we are in a period of constructing smart, grand and high-rise structures, we still give importance to the glorious past and history that we have."

Mirazol continues: "Buildings and historic places are non-living entities, but these are mirrors expressing a rich culture and history... but (they) will definitely stand in time, even for centuries, and these witnesses will tell us of the affluent culture and patrimony that was handed to us by our forefathers."

"I hope that there will come a time that architectural heritage conservation and preservation will be the duty (not only) of the few, but of all. It's not yet too late to start rebuilding what we have lost, for that is the only way that we would be able to start the foundation of our future."

Another UST Architecture student, Julius Marzan, writes that articles published on this column provide readers the "information on what's going on in different places in and out of the country," the "historical significance" of structures, and the "need for (their) conservation."

"I am also glad that the cultural importance is pointed out in your articles, which hopefully would boost the enthusiasm of Filipinos (so that they could) improve and beautify the wealth of our culture, especially in places which we can be proud of."

Marzan expresses the hope to develop the "heart for our nation and the motivation in conserving and preserving important structures and places which signify the past; (this would) help shape a better future for the Filipinos."

As the student letters show, we have come quite a way since the 1980s in the quest to preserve our heritage. With the growing involvement of the youth, rediscovering and protecting our heritage will become a national priority sooner than we expect.

E-mail the author at afv@hotmail.com

Prestige Cars BMW
BMW
Sheer Driving Pleasure
This February, get a taste of sweet luxury from Prestige Cars BMW.
M FP 4275
PRESTIGE CARS BMW
10
YEARS
Only from Prestige Cars BMW Makati.

At Prestige Cars BMW Makati, let your affection lead you to confections, and Sheer Driving Pleasure. From January 2 to February 15, 2006 all buyers of BMW automobiles will receive special Valentine boxes of world-renowned Swiss Teuscher chocolates - available only in the Philippines with your purchase of a BMW vehicle from Prestige.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A1-1065 Seris of 2005

Prestige Cars BMW 2324 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City • Tel. (02) 892 8127 to 29 • Fax (02) 816 7325

■ ENTERTAINMENT/A2-1
How 'Blue Moon' was chosen MMFF Most Gender-Sensitive film

■ ACROSS/A13
Arrest of 46 in Cavite confirms 'jueteng' return

■ BUSINESS/B1
Gov't names 6 to Maynilad board of directors

■ WORLD/A7
Selective abortion blamed for India's 10M missing girls

Neda chief can't find 'poorest of the poor'

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

ALTHOUGH HALF OF FILIPINOS ARE SURviving on less than $2 a day (about P105), the Arroyo administration is having a hard time finding "the poorest of the poor," especially in Metro Manila.

The National Economic and Development

NEDA/ A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

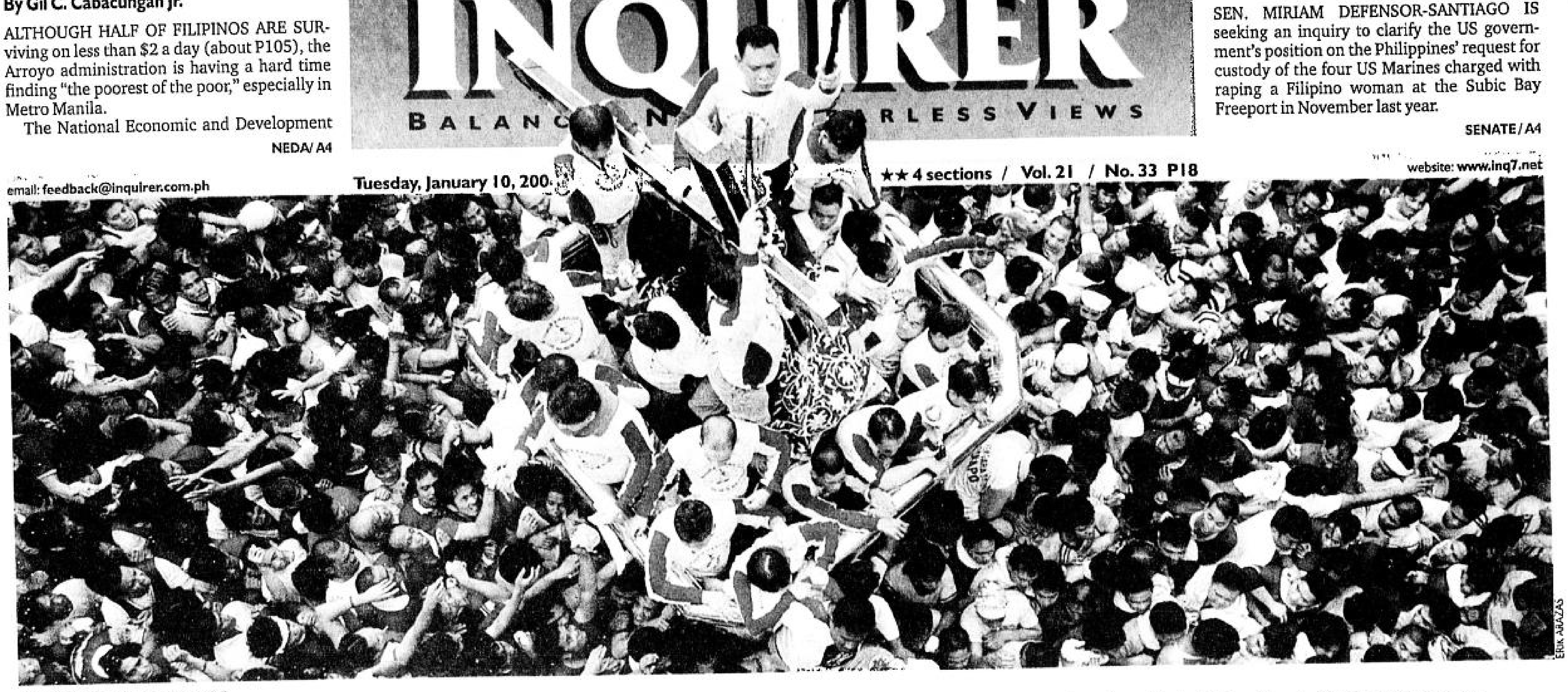
Senate inquiry sought on GI custody issue

By TJ Burgonio

SEN. MIRIAM DEFENSOR-SANTIAGO IS seeking an inquiry to clarify the US government's position on the Philippines' request for custody of the four US Marines charged with raping a Filipino woman at the Subic Bay Freeport in November last year.

SENATE/A4

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Tuesday, January 10, 200
★★ 4 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 33 P18
website: www.inq7.net



ERIK ARAZAS

FRENZIED DEVOTION
A crowd estimated at half a million shows its devotion to the Black Nazarene. A man was trampled to death and dozens were hurt in yesterday's crush of people outside the Quiapo Church. *(See Story on Page A16.)*

Ramos gives GMA until mid-'07 to quit

Says he still supports President, but …

RAFFY LERMA

WITH HER OR NOT? "Yes, but ..." ex-President Ramos said, when asked if he still backed GMA.

By Cynthia D. Balana

FORMER PRESIDENT FIDEL V. RAMOS YESTERDAY GAVE President Macapagal-Arroyo until June 30, 2007, to resign and decide whether she would run for parliament under an amended Constitution.

Speaking at a press conference in his office at the Export-Import Bank in Makati City, Ramos said he was willing to give the President another chance to respond to his second deadline for the sake of national unity.

Ramos had earlier given the President until Jan. 1 to make public her position on the no-election in 2007 proposal of the Consultative Commission (ConCom).

He said he was willing to accept a one-year delay in his original timeframe for the proposed shift from a presidential to a parliamentary system because he had not considered the impeachment factor then.

Ramos admitted that his support for the President was "still waning" and reiterated his call for Ms Arroyo to make the "ultimate sacrifice" of cutting short her term, which is to expire in 2010, in order to put in place the elements necessary for a parliamentary form of government.

"The President should resign by June 30, 2007, and declare her plans whether to continue in office … by running as member of parliament. Obviously, that's a wish," he said.

Asked about his next move if this wish were not granted, Ramos said, "*Abangan na lang ninyo* (You just wait). Don't panic."

He continued: "Don't be scared of me. Who the hell am I? Relax *lang kayo*. We're doing the work here in general for the welfare of the people and for our national security."

Asked if he still supported the President at this point, Ramos said wryly, "Yes, but …"

The "but," he said, will depend on how

RAMOS/ A6

Biazon says he has 5 wiretap witnesses

By TJ Burgonio

THE SHADOW OF THE "GARCI tapes" that has hung over President Macapagal-Arroyo for more than seven months is not about to disappear.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon yesterday said he had five new witnesses "of stature" and at least two new tape recordings of phone conversations that would show "massive" wiretapping of a host of personalities before and after the May 2004 presidential election.

"New witnesses will be coming in, new pieces of evidence will be presented," Biazon told reporters, giving a preview of what could happen when the Senate committee on national defense, which he chairs, resumes its hearings on the "Hello Garci" tape controversy on Jan. 19.

"And there seems to be an indication through these new poten

BIAZON/ A6

Aussie firm slapped ₱10.7M in fines for mine spills

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE GOVERNMENT HAS slapped an Australian firm operating what had been touted as the country's flagship mining project fines of at least P10.7 million for two mine spills in the island-municipality of Rapu-Rapu in Albay last year.

The Pollution Adjudication Board (PAB) has ruled that Rapu-Rapu Processing Inc. (RRPI), owned by Australian Lafayette Mining Inc., violated the Clean Water Act when it discharged waste water with a high cyanide content into creeks on Oct. 11 and 31.

The toxic waste found its way to the open sea, allegedly resulting in fishkills.

The PAB fined RRPI P10.4 million because effluents from the Rapu-Rapu Polymetallic Project site exceeded the acceptable cyanide level.

It was the biggest fine imposed on any violator since the Clean Water Act took effect in 2003. The P10.4-million fine was on top of the P300,000 paid by Lafayette for violating the provisions of its environmental compliance certificate.

The INQUIRER tried to contact Rod Watt, country manager of Lafayette Philippines Inc. (LPI), but his phone was unattended.

Rogelio Corpus, general manager for operations of LPI, refused to comment on the matter, saying the company had yet to be notified about it.

"We want revitalized mining to be the flagship of the economy, but we are for responsible mining. If they can't do it, then we don't need them here. There are many responsible mining operators out there," Environment Secretary Michael T. Defensor said at a press conference yesterday.

Defensor, who had branded the Rapu-Rapu Polymetallic Project as the "make-or-break case" for the

AUSSIE/ A6

DOING GOOD IN BAD TIMES

'Jollijeeps' give Jollibee run for its money

By Daxim L. Lucas

(Last of three parts)

SPECIAL REPORT

FERDIE CASTRO USED TO TAKE most of his lunches either in the cafeteria of the building where he works or at one of the numerous fastfood outlets along Makati Avenue and Jupiter Street.

Now, he finds himself eating more and more at a "Jollijeep"—not Jollibee—food stall behind one of Globe Telecom Inc.'s Makati City offices.

"This is also because of the difficult times," he said in Filipino, puffing on an after-meal cigarette beside his favorite jeep. "It's really a lot cheaper to eat here."

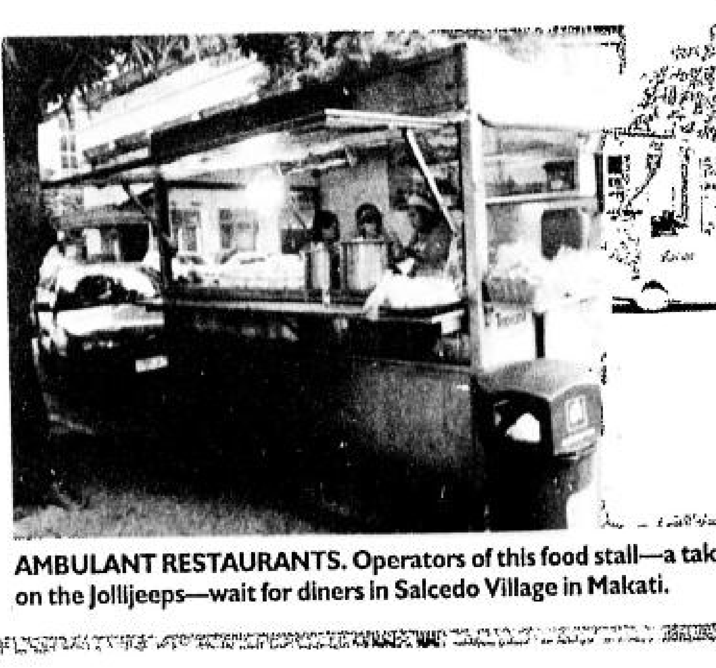
Castro's three coworkers, all dressed in their gray office-issued *barong* Tagalog, agreed heartily.

Jollijeep (known to some as "jeepney bar") is the popular monicker of the ubiquitous aluminum stalls-cum-carinderias "parked" along many of Makati City's side streets.

"Before, we used to eat in the cafeteria or at the fastfood," said one coworker. "But their prices are going up."

A cursory look at Jollijeep outlets around the Central Business

JOLLIJEEPS/ A4



RYAN LIM

AMBULANT RESTAURANTS. Operators of this food stall—a takeoff on the Jollijeeps—wait for diners in Salcedo Village in Makati.

How to start a Jollijeep business

1. ONLY REGISTERED MAKATI voters are allowed to apply, so have your original barangay residence certificate (*cedula*) and voter's ID or Comelec certification ready.

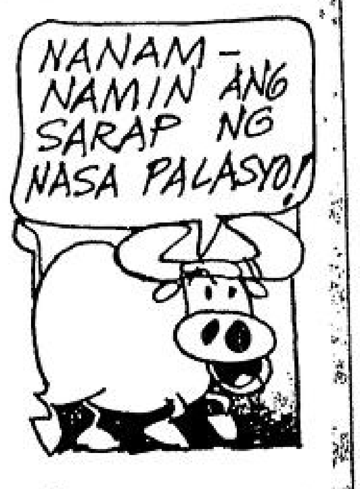
2. Present these documents when you fill out an application form at the Metrostores Inc. office, Unit 5-G, Electra House, V.A. Rufino corner Esteban Streets, Makati. It's open Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. There is no application fee.

3. Wait for Metrostores to call you about any vacancies. There are more than 100 people now on the waiting list.

4. Submit additional requirements which include business permits from the city and the barangay.

5. Discuss the terms and conditions of the Management and Service Contract with Metrostores. There is a one-time deposit of P5,000, refundable on expiration of

HOW TO/ A4


NANAM-NAMIN ANG SARAP NG NASA PALASYO!

Arroyos now more at home in Palace

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

FROM ALL APPEARANCES, President Macapagal-Arroyo's family seems to be feeling more at home in Malacañang, where her term of occupancy still has four and a half years to run.

First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo has started moving his office equipment and staff to the Palace to be closer to the President.

For her part, eldest granddaughter Mikaela Gloria, 3, has begun using the sprawl-

ARROYOS/ A6

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao will have cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. Widespread rains may trigger flashfloods and landslides over E. Visayas and E. Mindanao. E. Luzon will have cloudy skies with rainshowers. The rest of Luzon will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers.

COMPILED BY CYRIL L. BONABENTE PDI RESEARCH/01/10/06 SOURCE PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	**Roxas**	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	**Cebu**	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	**Tacloban**	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	**Gen. Santos**	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	**Zamboanga**	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	**Cagayan de Oro**	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	**Davao**	Cloudy with Rains

OUTGOING DENR SECRETARY Defensor holds up his hands during a press conference at the DENR main office in Quezon City. JOAN BONDOC

Mike D scraps 8,000 forest mgt agreements

By Norman Bordadora

ENVIRONMENT SECRETARY Michael Defensor yesterday cancelled more than 8,000 forest management agreements covering 2.2 million hectares of the country's forest reserves as many of them had become effective covers for illegal logging operations.

Defensor issued the cancellation order as he announced that he would file an indefinite leave from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to handle President Macapagal-Arroyo's schedules and projects as her de facto chief of staff.

He said he decided to cancel the forest management agreements, or logging permits, because there were too many of them and monitoring each one was difficult if not impossible.

Defensor said there would only only be three integrated forest management agreements that will continue to cover legal logging operations and all of them were in Mindanao.

"With just three active (agreements) in these areas, once you see a logging operation in, for instance, Luzon, you'd know it's illegal," Defensor said.

Defensor said that a study of the cancelled logging agreements showed violations such as failure to submit comprehensive development and management plans or pay the necessary rentals and fees.

The areas where Defensor ordered logging permits cancelled included the Ilocos region, Southern Tagalog, Bicol, Western Visayas, Central Visayas, Eastern Visayas, Western Mindanao and the Caraga region.

With respect to his replacement, Defensor said the next environment secretary should have excellent managerial skills, technical acumen and a strong will to take drastic measures to preserve the country's natural resources.

He said said the officer-in-charge or the next appointee should be able to make difficult decisions such as the one he had just announced.

His reference to management and technical skills led some observers to surmise he was thinking of naming a long-time associate, DENR Undersecretary Armand de Castro, as officer-in-charge after he goes on leave.

Meanwhile, Bacolod Bishop Vicente Navarra called on Ms Arroyo to appoint a new environment secretary who will have the political will to protect the country's remaining forests and environment.

The people should have a say on the new choice for environment secretary, Navarra said, voicing concern over continued illegal logging activities in some areas in the country as well as the resumption of mining operations which, he said, were damaging to the environment. *With Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

COUNCIL OF STATE MEETING

Palace drawing up list but GMA foes not going

By Michael Lim Ubac and Christine O. Avendaño

INVITED OR NOT, SOME OPPOSITION LEADERS ARE POISED TO snub the Jan. 24 Council of State meeting called by President Macapagal-Arroyo in an effort to reach out to her critics and put an end to the political crisis gripping her administration.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Bro. Eddie Villanueva of Bangon Pilipinas have said they would not be attending the meeting which administration supporters said had the "noble purpose of forging greater national unity and solidarity."

Even if he were invited, Bro. Eddie, leader of the Jesus Is Lord movement and erstwhile presidential candidate, would not want to be seen with President Arroyo, his son party-list Rep. Joel Villanueva said.

"The meeting will only be a deodorizer," the younger Villanueva of the Citizens' Battle Against Corruption (Cibac) said.

His father, he added, would welcome "unity talks" between former Presidents Corazon Aquino, Fidel Ramos and Joseph Estrada because "we will support a coalition that will bring back justice and righteousness in the highest echelons of power."

The three former Presidents are automatic members of the Council of State. Created by Aquino in 1987, its other members include the Senate President, the Speaker, deputy speakers, the president pro-tempore of the Senate (Pimentel), the majority and minority leaders of both chambers of Congress, the executive secretary, Cabinet members and leaders of local government units' groups such as the leagues of governors, mayors and councilors.

Malacañang has reportedly invited influential religious leaders Bro. Mike Velarde of El Shaddai, Eraño Manalo of Iglesia Ni Kristo and Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal to the meeting.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the Palace was drawing up the final list of people to be invited as well as the meeting's agenda.

"So we can have a good meeting of the Council of State which rarely meets and we can find out what other sectors want and determine what programs need to be pushed," he said in Filipino.

In an interview over dzBB radio, Ermita shrugged off allegations the Palace would use the meeting for its political ends and the opposition as its "props."

"*Sana ang resolusyon nating lahat ay magkaisa muna tayo at isantabi muna natin ang batikusan at bigyan natin ang ating ekonomiya na pasulong ang pag-unlad at hindi tuwi-tuwina na may gagawin ang* administration *ay para bang mayroon tayong kapunahan* (Hopefully we would resolve to unite and set aside bickering and not always criticize the administration to give our economy the chance to take off)," he said.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye echoed the call, saying "this is the time for high statesmanship and patriotism."

"The people are looking up to the leaders of this nation to set aside partisanship and stand united to address the vital concerns of the day—social, economic and political," Bunye said in a statement.

Presidential Adviser on Political Affairs Gabriel Claudio said the meeting's agenda would include the proposals to amend the Constitution, electoral reform and opportunities for the economic takeoff.

But claiming the council meeting would be "all for show," Deputy Minority Leader Roilo Golez yesterday said the President should instead have a "brutally frank" closed-door discussion with former Presidents Aquino and Ramos to help solve the country's problems.

"I believe the opposition should boycott [the council]. [It] is not the forum for resolving issues and the opposition would also be badly outnumbered. It would be better if [the President] meets with her equals, former Presidents FVR and Cory, in a closed-door meeting," Golez said.

"They could have a heart to heart talk, where as equals, they can openly discuss issues like the Garci tapes, the fertilizer fund scam and Hacienda Luisita in a brutally frank manner with no witnesses, just them, bound by a confidentiality agreement. That would be productive," he said.

For their part, administration Representatives Antonio Cuenco and Marcelino Libanan appealed to the opposition to "put a premium on patriotism rather than politicking" and give the council meeting a chance to succeed.

In a joint statement, Cuenco and Libanan said the opposition's plan to boycott the meeting means "they are setting aside the public welfare for their own interests."

"The opposition must realize that the council meeting is being called by President Arroyo not to woo or placate the opposition but as a consensus-building effort primarily to push the country's economic growth," said the lawmakers, urging Pimentel and Villanueva to "suspend their judgment about it and be willing enough to share their inputs on how to address the issues confronting the country."

With Philip C. Tubeza

Solon seeks out-sourcing of gov't services

By Philip C. Tubeza

TO CUT THROUGH BUREAUCRATIC RED tape and save tax-payers' money, the administration should seriously consider out-sourcing its non-core operations, a senior lawmaker said yesterday.

Cebu Rep. Eduardo Gullas said assigning non-core, back office government operations such as payroll administration services to private business process outsourcing (BPO) providers would generate billions of pesos in savings for the administration.

"Government may have to go with the trend in the private sector and deliberately contract out certain internal operating processes that may be handled more cost-effectively by specialized BPO providers," Gullas said.

Outsourcing refers to the delegation of specific non-core operations of an agency to an external entity that specializes in that operation, such as paying for the services of third-party electricians, plumbers and janitors instead of a government agency directly employing such people.

Gullas noted that of the P1.04-trillion proposed 2006 budget, nearly 32 percent or P330.5 billion would be used to pay for the salaries and benefits of around 980,000 national government employees.

Gullas pointed out that a number of federal and state agencies in the United States have already started outsourcing non-essential functions, particularly information technology-enabled services.

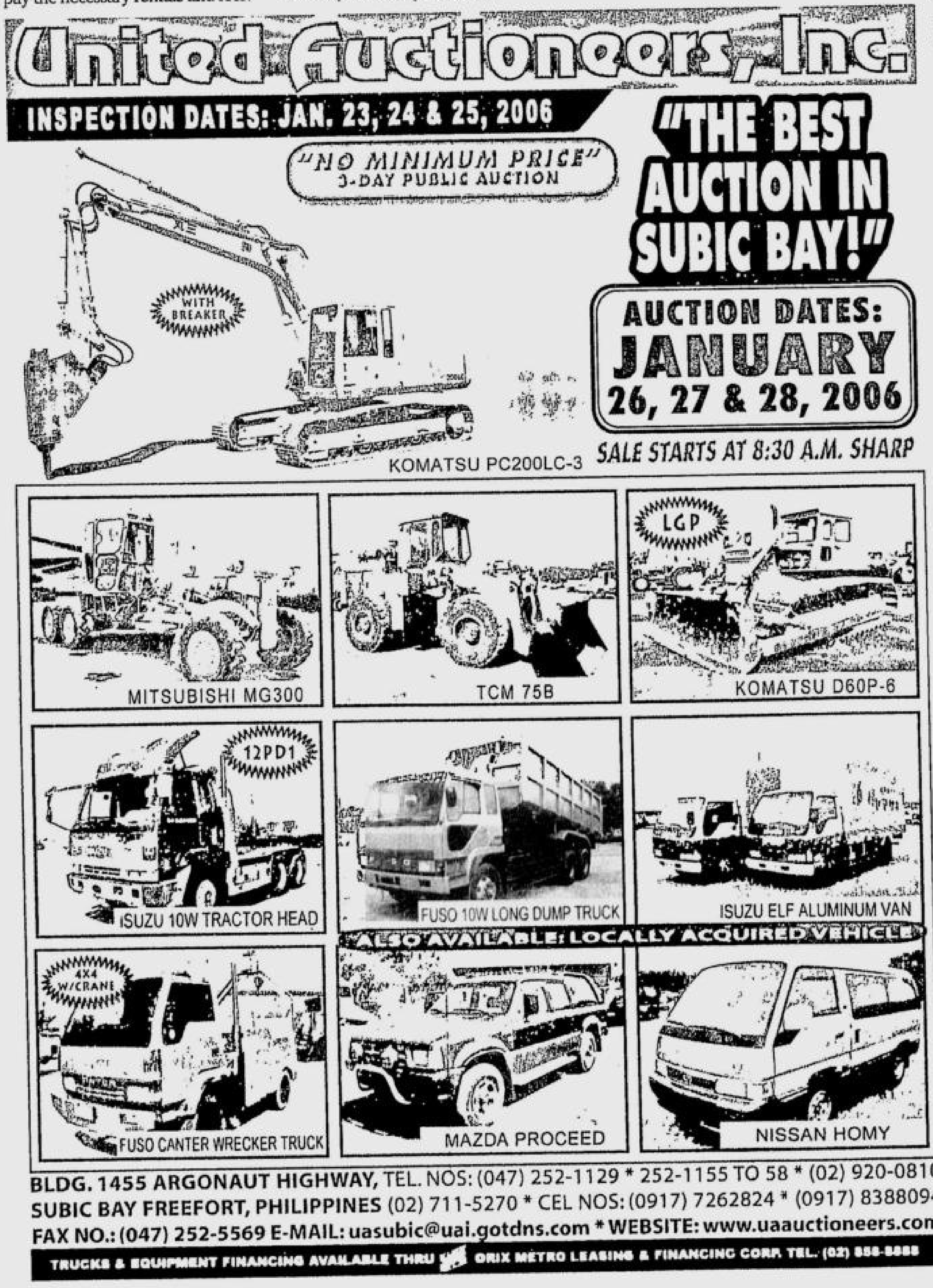
Initially, he said government could start by exploring the possibility of outsourcing payroll administration services in phases.

"We reckon that in some large agencies, for them to improve their payroll administration, they may have to invest a lot of money in new IT systems. However, once the service is outsourced altogether, we can let the BPO provider worry about spending for the new technology," Gullas said.

In the US, a number of large BPO providers have specialized in payroll services, he added.

Gullas cited as examples the Automatic Data Processing Inc. and Paychex Inc., two of the largest global providers of comprehensive human resources outsourcing solutions, including payroll and benefits administration.

Studies have shown that specialized BPO contractors tend to be more cost-efficient, he said, adding that this was the reason many large US corporations have been outsourcing non-core processes, such as customer management, a service provided by call centers.



United Auctioneers, Inc.

INSPECTION DATES: JAN. 23, 24 & 25, 2006

"NO MINIMUM PRICE" 3-DAY PUBLIC AUCTION

"THE BEST AUCTION IN SUBIC BAY!"

AUCTION DATES: JANUARY 26, 27 & 28, 2006

SALE STARTS AT 8:30 A.M. SHARP

ALSO AVAILABLE: LOCALLY ACQUIRED VEHICLES

BLDG. 1455 ARGONAUT HIGHWAY, TEL. NOS: (047) 252-1129 * 252-1155 TO 58 * (02) 920-0810
SUBIC BAY FREEFORT, PHILIPPINES (02) 711-5270 * CEL NOS: (0917) 7262824 * (0917) 8388094
FAX NO.: (047) 252-5569 E-MAIL: uasubic@uai.gotdns.com * WEBSITE: www.uaauctioneers.com

TRUCKS & EQUIPMENT FINANCING AVAILABLE THRU ORIX METRO LEASING & FINANCING CORP. TEL. (02) 888-8888

Stolen Japanese cars seized

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS YESTERDAY confiscated a shipment of right-hand-drive vehicles including a late model Toyota, Mazda and Honda which were misdeclared as agricultural machineries.

The confiscated vehicles, which collectively cost P13 million, were seized at the port of Manila. They were found in two container vans consigned to Gacram Trading and Pasaram Trading.

BOC Commissioner Napoleon Morales said the consignees would be charged with illegal importation and violation of Republic Act 8506 which bans the importation of right-hand drive vehicles.

Customs officials discovered the illegal shipment after a scrutiny of its import documents, which were deemed suspicious, and based on a tip from its operations and intelligence office, according to a BOC statement.

The BOC also learned that the vehicles had been declared stolen in Japan. Customs officials suspect that an international syndicate could be behind the theft of vehicles in Japan for shipment to other countries where they are re-sold.

The newly installed customs commissioner has vowed to closely monitor goods that enter the country so they could be levied with the proper taxes and duties.

The BOC was given a higher target collection of P192 billion this year up from P151 billion in 2005.

Arrest warrant for Faeldon out

By Tarra V. Quismundo

A MAKATI COURT ISSUED YESTERDAY AFternoon a warrant for the arrest of Marine Capt. Nicanor Faeldon, one of the junior military officers who staged a failed coup in Makati City more than two years ago.

Makati Regional Trial Court (RTC) Branch 148 Judge Oscar Pimentel signed the arrest warrant against Faeldon, the court staff told the INQUIRER. He escaped from his military guards on Dec. 14 after a postponed hearing in Pimentel's sala.

Along with 31 other soldiers, Faeldon faced coup d' etat charges for taking over the plush Oakwood apartment-hotels at the Ayala Center in Makati City on July 27, 2003.

Before guards lost him three weeks ago, Faeldon was in the custody of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines along with his fellow "mutineers," as they also faced court-martial proceedings for the coup attempt.

The court staff said Pimentel signed the warrant at around 4 p.m. The official issuance came after the judge granted on Friday a motion the Department of Justice (DOJ) filed seeking Faeldon's arrest and the cancellation of a P100,000 cash bond he had posted on July 19, 2004.

6-IN-1 HOSPITAL

Mega gov't health care complex to rise in QC

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEGUN TO INTEGRATE the resources and facilities of six state-run hospitals in Metro Manila into one state-of-the-art health care complex it hopes will help stem the exodus of the country's medical practitioners and bring down the cost of health care through economies of scale and synergy.

The proposed Philippine Centers for Specialized Healthcare (PCSH) will integrate the resources and services of the Philippine Heart Center, the Lung Center, the National Kidney and Transplant Institute, Philippine Children's Medical Center, and the East Avenue Medical Center in Quezon City.

It will also include a planned 1,000-bed Women's Medical Center, which will take the place of the rundown Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital in Sta. Cruz, Manila, and will be built on a lot adjacent to the Kidney Institute.

The multimillion-peso project will be the first of its kind in Asia and is expected to be completed by 2010, according to Health Undersecretary Jade del Mundo.

"It will be something that we will all be proud of, something that will thrust us into the 21st century and beyond," he told the INQUIRER in an interview.

Besides the hospitals, which will be expanded and their facilities upgraded, the complex will also have a National Reference Laboratory for Degenerative Diseases, and centers for blood diseases, brain, cancer and physical therapy and rehabilitation. A Medical Arts Building, large enough to accommodate the clinics of 1,280 doctors, will also be constructed.

"Hi-tech" bridges complete with "travelators" will connect the hospitals to each other.

Already being constructed is a bridgeway connecting the Philippine Heart Center with the nearby East Avenue Medical Center. The idea is to decongest the Heart Center by transferring patients recuperating from surgery to East Avenue, Del Mundo said.

But more than the complex's physical appeal, Del Mundo said the project would translate to lower healthcare cost and better opportunities for health professionals, many of whom have left for better jobs abroad.

"This is one of the government's responses to the exodus of health professionals," he said.

The PCSH will devote 70 percent of its resources to charity cases and the remainder, to private patients, Del Mundo said.

Del Mundo said the PCSH could save 10-20 percent in the procurement of medicines as drug companies give bigger discounts for bulk orders.

He said the center could also negotiate with doctors to lower professional fees, considering the advantages available at the complex. For one, a doctor will only have to pay rent for a clinic instead of having to buy expensive shares of stock as most private hospitals require on top of charging hefty rentals.

By consolidating six government hospitals, the PCSH could also afford to lower laboratory fees, simply because of volume of patients. Likewise, the large number of patients will make acquisition of even the most expensive medical equipment economically feasible, he added.

RP nurses welcome in Hawaii

LAOAG CITY – HAWAII GOV. LINDA LINGLE said the island state would open its doors to more Filipino nurses due to a shortage of health care workers.

Lingle flew to Ilocos Norte on Friday night to start her weeklong caravan in the Ilocos region for the centennial of Filipino migration to Hawaii.

In a briefing at the Fort Ilocandia Resort and Casino on Friday, Lingle said the state of Hawaii and the province of Ilocos Norte had signed an exchange program between their institutions – the University of Hawaii and the Mariano Marcos State University – in health care and agriculture.

The agreement is part of the sisterhood relationship between Hawaii and Ilocos Norte that Lingle and Gov. Ferdinand Marcos Jr. forged in February last year.

"Our state has a shortage [of nurses] and we have many Filipinos who come to our state and attempt to pass the state nursing exam,," Lingle said.

She said American professors would train their counterparts in Ilocos to give local nurses a better chance to pass the state nursing exams.

The state of Hawaii also signed similar agreements with the University of Northern Philippines and Virgen Milagrosa University, both in Ilocos Sur. *Cristina Arzadon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

ATENEO DE MANILA UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
Center for Continuing Education

PROFESSIONALS
SALCEDO

23rd Leadership+Management Development Program
February 2 - April 29, 2006

A comprehensive executive program designed to prepare managers for higher level roles by:

- Strengthening fundamental management skills
- Improving supervisory and team building proficiencies
- Heightening creative, strategic, and analytical thinking

Lay the groundwork for your success and find out why hundreds of managers consider Leadership and Management Development Program as one of the best investments they have ever made.

Program content: People Management for Competitive Advantage, Appreciating Financial Statements, Problem-Solving and Decision-Making, Corporate Creativity, Marketing Management, Financial Management, Macro-Economics, Business Ethics, Total Quality Management, Leadership and Change, and Strategic Thinking.

For inquiries and reservation, call:
Kharen Rañosa • Marleth Calanog
830.2050 • 840.1742

Other Course Offerings
Managing Employee Performance
January 25 - 27
Organizational Development for Line Managers
February 2 - 4
VAT System Reexamined
February 7 - 8
Treasury Operations
February 8 - 10
Accounting for Non-Accountants I
February 15 - 17
Basic Human Resources Management for Line Managers
February 15 - 17
Finance 101
February 20 - 24
Sales Forecasting Techniques
February 22 - 23
Techniques of Financial Analysis
March 6 - 10
36th Treasury Certification Program
March 6 - 21
Service Quality Management
March 7 - 8
Coaching and Counseling
March 8 - 10
Learning the Art of Negotiation
March 14 - 15
Medical and Life Sciences Communication
March 27 - 31

Schedules may change without prior notice.
Please contact us for regular updates.

Ateneo Center for Continuing Education
130 HV Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City 1200 Philippines
830.2050 • 810.7809 • cce-abib@aps.ateneo.edu • www.cce.ateneo.edu

The ATENEO brand is your career advantage.

No more asking husband "do I look fat?"

"Do I look fat?" is something she won't have to ask her husband again. Lyn Ching-Pascual is enthused with how Marie France shaped her body from a huge American size 10 to a sexy size 4 in just two months. Twelve pounds lighter, she can now dress any way she wants. She can show off her body in fitted clothes without feeling self-conscious of excess bulges. "Slimming down has definitely changed my life. It's so much easier now to move around and I'm more confident when dressing up. I don't have to wear black all the time. I can dress in white or any other color because I know I look good", says a proud Lyn.

"People compliment me every single day. My friends congratulate me because for the first time in my life I have become sexy!" For Lyn, who has been fat all her life, compliments are certainly music to her ears. "I was an obese child. I weighed 140 lbs when I was only 10 years old. It was so bad it got to a point that my skin gave up on me. I had stretch marks on my legs – at 10 years old! Imagine that!"

When she got older, Lyn went through different weight-loss methods. "Yo-yo dieting... gym (I'd workout religiously for months, then stop)...badminton (I'd play everyday, lose weight, then stop)... it got to a point when I was on the verge of an eating disorder. I looked really, really sick: dry skin... I wasn't moving too much because I was always tired... I couldn't breathe well... I had a lot of problems at that time. Plus, I really love food! That's why it's so hard for me to go on a diet. Surgical options? Honestly, I would choose to have surgery only if my life depended on it. Because I know something can still be done to get the body I want without resorting to drastic measures. Also every time you go under the knife, there's always a possibility something might go wrong. I'm not willing to take that chance."

That's why she couldn't have been happier when she enrolled at Marie France. She lost a lot of weight without having to resort to invasive procedures or crash diets. "I'm very happy because I can still eat whatever I want. I have a sweet tooth so I eat 2 bags of caramel popcorn everyday – and I never miss a day." Now, everybody's asking how she did it. With a smile, she unabashedly utters the words "Marie France."

She adds, "Their treatments are very easy, very fast, very safe, and very convenient for me. After the show *(Unang Hirit)* which ends at around 8:30-8:45am, I go straight to Marie France. They open early so there's no problem regarding schedule. It's very convenient because whatever I wear when I arrive, I can also wear when I leave. I don't have to take a bath or time to rest after a heavy workout. At Marie France, you just lie down and everyone else does the work for you. I can sleep and rest while losing weight. Where can you get that kind of deal?"

"People from the audience... the show... they tell me that I look good... really good. Even a close friend of mine said, 'I have never seen you this thin before'. That's because before, when I used to workout a lot, I lost weight but I looked bulky. I lost pounds but not inches. With Marie France, I lose both pounds AND inches," Lyn stressed.

To women who want to finally get rid of those excess pounds this new year, Lyn has this to say, "Don't do anything else, just Marie France. You will lose weight while sleeping. Do something for yourself. Go to Marie France because your weight-loss is going to last and it will make you happy for sure. It made me happy."

For a FREE body fat analysis and consultation with one of our weight-loss experts, just call 894-BODY (2639).

Slim, sexy, and...naughty!
marie france

Since Lyn lost over 12 pounds and a total of more than 12.5 inches at Marie France, she confesses to flaunting her new slim and sexy shape at almost every opportunity. "I know it's a bit naughty," she says, "but I just can't help it. I'm so proud of the way I look now. I'm aware of the 'double takes' at the studio, while shopping, and at corporate shows – it's really great, thanks to Marie France!"

To get a new sexy shape quickly and easily, call Marie France now for a free consultation today. Discover your potential to be naughty!

CALL 894-BODY (2639)

MAKATI ORTIGAS TOMAS MORATO BINONDO ALABANG SHAW CONGRESSIONAL PAMPANGA • TEL 961-2981 CEBU • TEL 233-7637

Senate inquiry sought on GI custody issue

From page A1

The senator filed yesterday a resolution directing the committee on foreign relations, which she chairs, to look into the issue of custody following the US military's decision to turn over to Japanese authorities an American serviceman accused of killing and robbing a Japanese women in Japan.

Santiago noted that the four accused in the rape case had filed motions seeking judicial determination of probable cause "or a stay of arrest," thus delaying the local courts' issuance of warrants for their arrest.

In contrast, the US military had agreed to hand over the 21-year-old sailor charged with killing the Japanese woman to the Japanese authorities early this month, she said.

No legal basis

"There appears to be no appreciable legal basis for the difference in treatment by the US military authorities over the Americans accused in the two countries," the senator said in her resolution.

Santiago said the Visiting Forces Agreement called for US custody of American personnel accused of crimes "until completion of all judicial proceedings," while Japan's Status of Forces Agreement (Sofa) gave the US custody of their personnel "until the accused is charged."

"Ostensibly, there is a difference because while the VFA provides for US custody until the judicial process is finished, the Sofa provides for US custody only until the accused is charged in court," she said.

"The seeming difference between the provisions on custody of the VFA (Philippines) and Sofa (Japan) is negated by the provision in the VFA that even if the US is entitled to custody, in extraordinary cases, the US, if requested, shall take into full account the request for Philippine custody," she added.

General rule on treaties

The senator further pointed out that the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties provided that a treaty should be interpreted in good faith in accordance with the ordinary meaning of the terms of the treaty as well as its purpose.

"Under this general rule on interpretation, the VFA 'extraordinary case' exception should be interpreted in good faith by the Americans in the context of respect for and observance of Philippine legal procedures and in the light of the purpose to treat the Philippines as an ally, equal with other American allies," she said.

In particular, the inquiry would determine whether the US had a "diplomatic obligation to interpret the VFA 'extraordinary case' exception so as to equal to the Sofa provision that US custody is allowed only until the accused American is charged in court," the senator said.

RP can't react hastily

If the inquiry "should prove to be fruitless," the same committee should then inquire "whether it is necessary to request a renegotiation of the VFA, to the end that the Philippine custody provision should be amended so as to approximate the Japanese custody provision," she said.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon urged the government not to rush to gain custody of the four accused without carefully studying the implications.

"We have our processes in this country. We can't just react hastily without studying all of these. Because there are serious implications on the credibility of our justice system, on the credibility of our government in maintaining its sovereignty and in abiding by the provisions of the Visiting Forces Agreement," he said in a briefing.

The difference between the VFA and the Sofa should be studied, he added.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez yesterday said the country was stuck with the VFA and the procedures outlined there in handling the criminal case against the four servicemen.

"Let us go through the process, we are not a rogue state that we do not know how to comply with our obligations," he said, reacting to continuing calls for the government to move aggressively to take custody of the US servicemen.

He said it was enough that the Department of Foreign Affairs had already asked the US government to turn over custody of the accused Americans to the country and it was set to reiterate the request.

Compliance in good faith

"Under international law, when you enter into a treaty, you are supposed to comply in good faith and implement it in good faith unless the situation suddenly changes that you cannot anymore implement it. Then you can ask to either abrogate or renegotiate it," he said in a telephone interview with the INQUIRER.

Gonzalez said Senators Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Richard Gordon—who pressed for the country to take custody of the American soldiers in view of the Japan experience—could only be voicing "emotional sentiments."

"But I cannot be guided by emotional sentiments, I have to follow what the law says ... You know they were the ones who ratified this," he said of the Senate.

Aside from the contentious issues of custody and jurisdiction, the judge trying the case expects another snag to crop up—where to jail the accused.

Judge Renato Dilag told the INQUIRER in a phone interview on Monday the court could not unilaterally decide on a place of detention.

Dilag said Paragraph 10, Article 5 of the Visiting Forces Agreement stated that "both parties may agree on the place where the accused may be detained."

In Dilag's interpretation, that provision meant that the prison facility must be approved by the Philippine and the US governments.

"So even if I issue the arrest warrants when I find probable cause to do that, I cannot immediately send them off to a local jail of my court's choice," he said.

With reports from Armand N. Nocum, Volt Contreras and Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Neda chief can't find 'poorest of the poor'

From page A1

Authority (Neda) said finding the truly penniless Filipinos would help the government ensure that beneficiaries of its program to dole out free instant noodles and rice were really the "poorest of the poor" and not just pretenders.

"Anybody can make data to prove they are the poorest of the poor. The very poor are mobile people. They move from place to place and the government wants to make sure that they are truly who they are before it gives them directly food to eat," Neda Director General Augusto Santos said in a phone interview.

Except for the obvious places such as the Smokey Mountain and Payatas dumps, grinding poverty is not easy to pinpoint, according to Santos.

"All modern cities in the world have pockets of poverty within them and that's not easy to locate. Even in rural areas, it's hard to say if a family is going hungry just by looking at their house," said Santos, also the socioeconomic planning secretary.

In gathering data on the poorest of the poor, Santos said Neda was getting inputs from the National Anti-Poverty Commission to ensure that its list of indigents was "credible and has integrity."

The government has stepped up its antipoverty program, including setting aside part of the P35-billion pump-priming program in the first quarter for subsidizing instant noodles and rice.

Santos did not say if the distribution of free noodles and rice to the poorest of the poor was part of the subsidized noodles and rice program. The subsidized noodles and rice will be coursed through barangay chairs in poor communities.

More getting hungry

A growing number of Filipinos are going hungry despite an expanding economy.

Close to one of every five Filipino households is hungry for at least one day, while more than half rank themselves as poor.

A survey conducted by Social Weather Stations (SWS) in the fourth quarter of last year found that a record 16.7 percent of Filipino families went hungry at least one day in the previous three months (excluding religious fasting).

SWS placed the number of families that went hungry at 2.8 million, equivalent to 14 million people. The average household in the country has five members.

Santos played down the results of the survey mainly because the poll was a self-rated exercise in which the respondents gave their take on their economic status.

In contrast, the National Statistics Office bases a person's poverty on hard facts such as nutrition levels, according to the Neda chief.

Santos said it was human nature to exaggerate one's situation. "If you ask one guy if he is poor or hungry, he'd say yes because he wants more money or he wants more to eat."

Papal nuncio

At the vin d'honneur last night in Malacañang, Papal Nuncio Antonio Franco urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to properly address poverty.

"Looking at the future with the experience of the past, we all wish you to give better answers to the needs and expectations of the people and to contribute to eradicate the causes of poverty and social tensions," Franco said in his speech.

Ms Arroyo acknowledged that the people were getting "impatient" over the lack of improvement in their lives.

She said she was making it a priority to make sure that the benefits of a strong peso, stock market and bonds would trickle down to the poor.

"We recognize that the benefits apparent at the top of the economic pyramid are not being felt by the very people who need it most. I have asked my Cabinet to allocate P35 billion immediately to bring near-term improvement to the lives of the people," the President said.

Ms Arroyo said the second phase of her economic reforms was meant to bring the benefits of macroeconomic improvements to the people. "For the first time in years, we have resources to sustain our investment in the people and not just feed the beast of debt service," she said.

An administration that fails to address hunger has no reason to remain in power, said Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran.

Wage increase

Alarmed over the results of the SWS survey, Beltran pressed anew for the passage of House Bill No. 345 calling for a P125 across-the-board wage increase.

In a statement, Beltran said one way of addressing the growing number of Filipinos going hungry was to implement a nationwide wage increase.

He said a wage increase was the first step toward strengthening the purchasing capacity of the working poor at a time of high prices of goods and services.

The rising cost of living has been largely due to high fuel prices and power rates and the implementation of the 10 percent expanded value-added tax (VAT). The VAT rate will be raised to 12 percent in February.

Beltran, a former labor leader, noted that half a decade had passed since labor groups first pressed for a legislated nationwide wage increase.

"Back in 1999, P460 was the average daily cost of living. It rose to at least P667 as of September last year. Yet no substantial wage increase has been granted to ensure that wages keep up with expenditures," he noted.

Beltran said the need for a wage hike had become more urgent because of the Arroyo administration's "quadruple whammies" against the working class last year—more taxes, more price increases, more rate hikes and more holiday declarations.

"The reality is that more children are subsisting on *pagpag* (recycled and discarded food), and more workers are waging strikes because of oppressively low wages, as the Hacienda Luisita strike shows," he said. *With a report from Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

SWEET DEALS FROM SINGAPORE AIRLINES

AIRFARES

SINGAPORE from US$218

MALAYSIA from US$288

JAKARTA from US$348

EUROPE from US$838

PACKAGES

SINGAPORE from US$298 2 nights hotel

PENANG from US$378 2 nights hotel

KUALA LUMPUR from US$358 2 nights hotel

SIEM REAP, DA NANG & SINGAPORE from US$628 6 nights hotel

BALI from US$368 3 nights hotel

AUSTRALIA from US$728 3 nights hotel

For more information visit singaporeair.com.

A great way to fly SINGAPORE AIRLINES

AIRFARES: Valid for purchase until 15 February 2006 (Singapore airfare for INSTANT PURCHASE only). Valid for departures until 15 March 2006. For more information, please call your travel agent or SIA Reservations at 756-8888.

PACKAGES: Valid for travel until 31 March 2006. For more information, please call your travel agent or SIA Tours Desk at 753-5151 to 52 and 756-8899 loc 7001-7004.

Terms and conditions apply to above fares / prices.

All prices quoted are per person based on Economy Class travel and exclude taxes, fees and other surcharges.

'Jollijeeps' give Jollibee ...

From page A1

District reveals a business that is not only doing well, but is booming.

According to Ledenila Camilon, her Jollijeep operation behind the Pacific Star building at the corner of Sen. Gil Puyat and Makati avenues generates up to P9,000 worth of sales on any given day from P2,000 worth of market expenses.

"On good days, we sell a lot of food, especially during lunch and *merienda*," she said.

Bad days?

And how much does she gross on "bad days?"

"Sometimes, when business is slow, it can go as low as P7,000 per day," she said.

Her smile and the steady stream of office employees lining up to have lunch way past 1 p.m. suggest that those bad days come few and far between.

Camilon has been manning her Jollijeep at her present location for over two years now. She said she had nothing to complain about, especially since she operates one of only two food stalls behind the Pacific Star and Petron MegaPlaza office towers and the former head office of Far East Bank.

Creek comes with the meal

That her stall sits beside a polluted creek doesn't seem to bother her customers, who are happy enough to have a set meal of one cup of rice, one viand and one bottle of softdrinks for only P50.

Diners who can't stand the noonday heat would take out their lunches in styrofoam and plastic containers and eat them back in their airconditioned offices, she said.

"Around the corner, you'll have to pay at least P100 per meal," Camilon said, pouting her lips at the branch of a popular Chinese fastfood chain.

So successful have Jollijeeps become that mainstream fastfood outlets, like Jollibee, are worried about the slow but steady migration of diners to competitors some people once dismissed as purveyors of "hepa food."

The label sprang from rumors that the allegedly unsanitary practices of some Jollijeep operators had caused several diners to be infected with hepatitis A.

Managers and crew members of a nearby Jollibee admitted privately that they were worried not about rival fastfood outlets, but about the drawing power of the Jollijeeps, which seems to increase in the face of economic hardship.

Exclusive franchise

"Sales remain strong, but our lines are slightly shorter," said one supervisor.

Since the volume of diners at nearby fastfood restaurants remains unchanged, he believes that former patrons must be shifting toward cheaper dining alternatives.

The success of the Jollijeep has not escaped the attention of local government regulators.

From an unregulated industry requiring operators to pay only daily parking fees has risen a company called Metrostores Inc. that holds the exclusive franchise for the food stalls.

"Jollijeep" is now the official name of the business, and annual fees are now paid by franchisees for registration, licensing and sanitary permits.

Recently, the Makati government even increased from P300 to P360 its charge for the annual mayor's permit for these food stalls, which are classified as "carinderia" operations under the city's business code.

The fees don't seem to deter Jollijeep operators or those aspiring to get into the business, says Pablo Glean, officer in charge of the city's Business Permits Office.

"There are many applicants who come to us every day, and I understand the waiting list with Metrostores is very long," he told the INQUIRER.

Despite this, diners are not about to experience a sudden tidal wave of Jollijeep stalls sweeping across Makati.

Power of 'mosquitoes'

"There are 124 Jollijeep stalls around Makati," Glean said. "That's a constant number."

He said the ceiling on the number of operators was set by the city government and by the Ayala-owned firm that administers the Central Business District, in consultation with Metrostores, so as not to kill other food establishments in the area.

"There's an agreement between them so that the bigger restaurants will not die," Glean said.

The remark was not without some irony. After all, nobody could have imagined that what was once a "mosquito business" could pose a threat to anyone, especially the more established fastfood stores.

Ferdie doesn't mind

The limited slots means operators are holding on tightly to their Jollijeep franchises. Only few opt not to renew their licenses each year.

"There are some who leave the business, but it's very rare, and there are many waiting in line who will gladly take their place," Glean said, noting that it was difficult to find a business that raked in P9,000 at the end of the day on morning capital of only P2,000.

Office workers, like Ferdie Castro, don't mind if people, like Ledenila Camilon, make a killing day in and day out, as long as they get good value for their money.

Not even the thought of contracting "hepa" scares Ferdi and his friends—as long as, they say, the meal is "delicious and cheap."

Standing within earshot, Camilon breaks into a grin while serving merienda to a long line of people clad in *barong*.

How to start a Jollijeep business

From page A1

contract.

Metrostores will also collect P500 daily from each Jollijeep—P350 in management and service fee and P150 in parking fee. Jollijeep operators are expected to comply with the city's cleanliness and sanitation standards, and pay the required taxes yearly.

6. Metrostores will then endorse you to the city's social welfare department, which takes care of the interests of food vendors who used to sell food in vehicles they would park anywhere in the commercial business district until they were displaced by the Jollijeeps.

After this, you can start operating the Jollijeep assigned to you.

(For inquiries, call Metrostores Inc. at 812-0803 or 892-0731) ***Jamie Alarcon and Chona Galang, PDI Research***

Pilots who want out complain of harassment

By Nikko Dizon

A NUMBER OF PHILIPPINE AIR Force (PAF) pilots want out but the military hierarchy has been allegedly sitting on their resignation letters.

"It's harassment, plain and simple," one of the pilots told the INQUIRER in an interview late last week. "They are making us rot here."

The pilot requested anonymity, citing his pending resignation from the Air Force.

The pilot said that PAF Commanding General (CG), Lt. Gen. Jose Reyes, had returned some of the resignation letters last year for "unexplained reasons."

Sought for comment, Reyes denied that he rejected the resignations of some of the pilots.

He said some resignations were returned because they lacked documents.

"Nevertheless, I ordered some of the resignation letters processed even if they lacked some documents. We'll just attach them later on," Reyes said.

The pilot also said that Reyes issued "a verbal instruction" that the pilots could not apply for terminal leave.

"The reason cited was because pilots usually go on terminal leave to find employment outside the military or train as commercial airline pilots," he said.

He added that at least two pilots had gone AWOL because of this directive.

In a subsequent interview yesterday, the pilot told the INQUIRER that curiously, the Air Force leadership started attending to the resignation letters.

The pilot said he had submitted his resignation letter middle of last year.

According to Maj. Augusto de la Peña, incoming spokesperson of the Air Force, there were 24 Air Force pilots who filed their resignation last year.

Disgruntled PAF colonel wants Senate custody

By Alcuin Papa

DISGRUNTLED AIR FORCE COL. Efren Daquil has asked to be placed in the custody of the Senate a day after he found a tiny camera hidden in the air-conditioner of his Villamor Air Base quarters, his lawyer said yesterday.

Daquil made the request in a letter to Brig. Gen. Francisco Vila Jr., Villamor camp commander, lawyer Homobono Adaza said.

"He wants to be transferred to the custody of Senator [Rodolfo] Biazon. He is willing to tell all," Adaza said in a phone interview.

Biazon chairs the Senate national defense and security committee and is a former Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff.

In a press conference last week, Daquil had asked the leadership of the Air Force to explain how P30 million in savings in its personnel office was spent. He also questioned the monthly allowances of P45,000 each for wing commanders and 8,500 each for their deputies on top of their salaries.

Adaza said Daquil had deplored the bugging of his room as an invasion of privacy. He, however, had yet to make a formal request to Biazon regarding custody, Adaza said.

AFP Public Information Office chief Col. Tristan Kison, in a briefing with reporters, said the military should have custody of Daquil. "Primary jurisdiction (over Daquil) belongs to the Air Force," he said.

The Air Force defended the spying, saying it was necessary for intelligence-gathering.

The Air Force leadership also explained that the P30 million was spent on sports gear for personnel and the allowances were part of the Direct Support Fund which is used for the upkeep of commanders' offices.

Adaza said that on the request of PAF commanding general Lt. Gen. Jose Reyes, Daquil had agreed to a mutual "moratorium" on interviews with the press until the Air Force Provost Marshal shall have finished his investigation of probable violations of the Articles of War by Daquil.

Coast Guard races to stop oil spill off Semirara

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD is racing to control a spill of over 162,000 liters of oil that seeped out of a National Power Corp. barge that ran aground along with a Napocor tanker in Semirara, Antique, on Dec. 19 last year.

With some 2,480 sacks of oil-contaminated debris already collected in a three-week period, PCG commandant Vice Admiral Arthur Gosingan directed Coast Guard personnel to intensify the cleanup operations.

He also instructed local PCG officials to hold daily assessment meetings and closely monitor the cleanup process to ensure that there would be no delays, Coast Guard spokesperson Commander Joseph Coyme said.

"We want to keep a close watch on the cleanup of the oil spill and to speed it up because we are very concerned about its effects on the environment. Residents of the surrounding communities are very worried over the situation," Coyme said in an interview.

The Coast Guard is also in charge of protecting the marine environment.

The cleanup of approximately 162,160 liters of oil is expected to take four months, although Coyme said the PCG was aiming to shorten that time.

MOLDEX PRODUCTS, INC.
ISO 9001:2000 Certified!

SANIMOLD Extra
uPVC DWV PIPING SYSTEM
NEW and IMPROVED
Walang Tagas!

The new Leak-proof System features:
- ✓ Patented Rubber Gasket Seal Ring
- ✓ Dual Attachment System (either Solvent cement or improved Rubber O-ring seals)
- ✓ Patented Built-in Slope Design
- ✓ Deeper Socket Connection

Plus : Our pipes are compliant to the Global ISO heavy duty standards.

Call: 373-1000 / 0918-802-8888
www.moldex.com
BASTA TUBO i-MOLDEX mo!

SLIMMERS WORLD
THE ULTIMATE CORE FAT BURNING PROGRAMME.

GREAT SAVINGS!!!
ONLY P45 PER DAY on Full Enrollment.
MEDICAL SUPERVISION AT ALL CENTERS.
FIRST 25 SLOTS TODAY.
Per DTI-NCR Permit #2787, Series of 2006.

SHE SAID: What is CORE POWER?
HE SAID: CORE POWER training plus BODY METRICS is the ultimate in FITNESS, FAT & CELLULITE LOSS. It's the way that Jonabel Gavieta lost 34.5 lbs to win the Female Great Body contest and Art Guerrero lost 35 lbs to win the Male Great Body contest.

FLATTEN Your TUMMY & Stay LEAN Forever!

PERSONAL TRAINING
FREE DANCE AEROBICS on Full Programmes.

SLIMMERS WORLD FACE, SKIN & BODY
OTHER TREATMENTS:
- MESOTHERAPY
- AQUAMID
- SKIN WHITENING
- BOTOX
- RESTYLANE
- PERLANE
- LASER ACNE TREATMENT
- WART REMOVAL
- FACIAL

DIAMOND ULTRAPEEL For beautiful, smooth white skin.
HOT MASQUE For firming and inch loss.
BODY FORMER Lose 1,000 calories while you relax

GREAT SAVINGS!!! 60% on Full SKIN, FACE & BODY PROGRAMMES. FIRST 25 SLOTS TODAY.

FITNESS & SKIN HOTLINE 8873533 MOBILE 091-SLIMMERS (75466377)

CALL US: www.slimmersworld.com.ph inquire@slimmersworld.com.ph

ALABANG Gemma/Wendy 2F RCBC Bldg. Zapote-Alabang Rd. 809-0396
BINONDO Thelma/Jannah 3F Regina Garden II 242-1312
CALOOCAN Sherry/Bheng/Olive 6F Panorama Bldg., Rizal Ave. 365-7653
CEBU Luisa/Chryso Basement 1&2 Ayala Center 231-3254
GREENHILLS Kristine 27F Atlanta Ctr. #31 Annapolis 726-6505
LEGASPI VILL. Lani/Jonah GF Zeta Bldg. Salcedo St. 893-8935
MALATE Daisy 6F Adriatico Square Adriatico ,Manila 536-0619
MEGAMALL Gina/Maureen 2F Bldg. A Mandaluyong 631-3869
PASAY ROAD Cher/Maan 1032 Arnaiz Ave. cor. Hernandez St. 887-1335 09178515920
PASIG Lorie/Dino Restaurant Ave. Marcos Hi-way 681-5333
SM NORTH Mitch 2F Annex Bldg. Quezon City 929-5429
SUBIC Beth/Precy 2F Times Square Rizal Hi-way 252-6514
TRAFALGAR Anna 28F Trafalgar Plaza H V dela Costa 814-0138

SKIN CENTER: ALABANG 7750587/09183912510 BINONDO 2420728/09178224399 CALOOCAN 3657653 GREENHILLS 7261526/09194986196 MALATE 5259891/09213173415 MEGAMALL 6377543/09162479753 PASAY RD. 8873530/09156893088 PASIG 6473814/09275341314

Ramos gives GMA until mid-2007 to quit

'She can be Joan of Arc without being burned'

By Cynthia Balana
and Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

HE IS DESCRIBED AS A PSY-WAR expert and yesterday he demonstrated why.

Reading from previous published interviews of himself both here and abroad in a wide-ranging news conference, former President Fidel V. Ramos made clear where he stood in the continuing political crisis hounding President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"My support for President Arroyo is incidental," he quoted one report. "She has to do something noble—cut short her term."

Quoting from a Time magazine article on the need for a new political system in the Philippines, Ramos said, "The higher the position, the greater the sacrifice. It's her head on the line."

Filipino Joan of Arc?

He also mentioned a previous statement he made on the need to update the 1987 Constitution to meet the needs of the times: "President Arroyo can be the Joan of Arc of the Philippines without being burned at the stake."

To laughter from reporters, Ramos said, "You think it is funny. No, it is not. It is very serious."

The 77-year-old Ramos then repeated a "timeline" for political change he had been hammering on: Amendments to the Constitution and a plebiscite but adding a new element—elections by June 2007.

Last night, Ramos joined the traditional diplomatic gathering at the Palace—the vin d'honneur—hosted by Ms Arroyo.

He stood side by side with the President on stage as she offered a toast to the diplomatic community.

For the first time, Ramos spoke in detail about his meeting in his office with Senate President Franklin Drilon and former Sen. Vicente Sotto III, who is allied with ousted President Joseph Estrada, last month.

He said he was asked during the meeting, held upon the request of Drilon and Sotto, if he was willing to join a covenant with Aquino and Estrada.

No unity with Erap

"I said I suppose that covenant is to unseat the incumbent. Although I did not get an answer to that, I said, 'Look, I will not be part of a covenant with Estrada unless there is a closure to the case pending against him in the Sandigan, because I would end up influencing the court.'

"Secondly, I already had my own formula for constitutional change with a timeline for the renewal of our total condition, not just leadership, but economic, credit rating, peace and order and power restoration."

Drilon broke away from Ms Arroyo amid mounting calls for the President's resignation. This followed revelations in the "Hello Garci" wiretaps which allegedly indicated Ms Arroyo stole the May 2004 presidential election.

PRESIDENT Arroyo and former President Fidel V. Ramos toast the new year during the vin d'honneur in Malacañang. EDWIN BACASMAS

Ramos was largely credited with having salvaged the tottering Arroyo presidency at that time. Last month, he described as a "monumental blunder" a recommendation by Ms Arroyo's handpicked Constitutional Commission to do away with elections in 2007 to pave the way for the institution of a parliamentary system and elections in 2010.

No parliamentary post

The former Armed Forces chief of staff said he had no intention of serving as president or prime minister in the proposed parliamentary system.

"I had it under one hat—both as head of state and head of government. There will be a demotion for me if I accept one or the other," Ramos, a graduate of the US Military Academy at West Point, said during the nationally televised news conference.

"The point is young leaders must emerge. This is a country of 85 million Filipinos," he said. "It is time for the young to pick up the mantle of responsibility from the elders."

He pointed to the example of Germany, which recently elected a 51-year-old leader.

He said he had meetings with various opposition leaders but had to turn down some requests for meetings by others because he had to spend time with his family. He showed a photograph during a tattooing session with family members on Dec. 29. The picture showed him in an undershirt with a tiger tattoo on his right bicep.

Speaker Jose de Venecia called Ramos a "master practitioner of psywar" and said the opposition must not be deceived into believing they had "captured him."

From page A1

the President would respond to his second deadline.

"I'm not playing coy here. *Malay ninyo naman* (For all you know), I'm giving the President a chance. *Abangan na lang ninyo* (Just wait for it). You don't build public opinion in one day," he said, adding that his support for any President was always incidental to national interest.

Former President Joseph Estrada said in a statement that Ramos' timeline for Ms Arroyo to resign in June 2007 was too long.

"The people have suffered much in the last five years as shown in recent surveys and for them to wait for 2007 is too much," he said, warning that this could lead to a breakdown in peace and order.

"As I have said repeatedly before, a hungry stomach knows no law," said Estrada, who was ousted by a "people power" uprising in 2000 and replaced by then Vice President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Ramos acknowledged that the President might not be taking his advice kindly.

"This is human nature. And I cannot control all the elements that go into her decision-making," he said.

When reminded that he had been harsh on the President by giving her deadlines, Ramos insisted that he only did so twice.

First deadline not ignored

Contrary to the public perception that his first deadline was ignored, Ramos said the President had told him that she already had referred the ConCom report on the proposed amendments to the Constitution to Congress and would rather have the people decide on it.

He also said the President's decision to convene the Council of State and the national directorate of the Lakas-NUCD party this month was a "sign" of a "definite reaction" from her.

He said he would ask the party during its forthcoming convention to come up with a position on whether to accept or reject the proposal for no elections in 2007.

On the need to cut short the President's term, Ramos said this would allow Congress to act swiftly on the proposal to amend the Constitution, embark on an information campaign and hold a referendum.

Ramos warned the President against a possible revolt by the masses because of what he considered the widening gap between the poor and the rich.

He reminded the media that he had been sticking his neck out since he was a young soldier and that he wanted young leaders to do the same.

Ramos said during President Corazon Aquino's administration, "I stuck my neck out and I supported her nine times and I'm talking about coup attempts... That was a shoot-to-kill situation. Who would want to go into that all over again?"

Ramos ruled out a possible military solution to the political crisis, saying it would be unfair to drag soldiers and policemen into the political controversy.

Ramos also said the President should not gloat about positive economic indicators like the GDP (gross domestic product) but should confront the issue of poverty right away as this bred communist rebels or suicide bombers.

On the Council of State, to be presided over by Ms Arroyo, Ramos said he hoped the meeting, which would include himself and Aquino, would yield positive results. *(See related story on Page A2.)*

He said he expected the Arroyo administration to be saddled with the issues of political instability, a second impeachment complaint against the President in July and the worsening poverty of the people.

With a report from Nelson F. Flores

Biazon says he has 5 wiretap witnesses, 2 new tape recordings

From page A1

tial testimonies and additional pieces of evidence that it was a massive operation of wiretapping in relation to the conduct of elections of 2004," he said.

Only 1 ready to talk

However, only one of the five witnesses has so far confirmed his attendance at next week's hearing, Biazon said, adding that he was still trying to convince the others to come forward.

He said three of the witnesses were "significant" while the other two could corroborate their testimonies.

The senator said the testimonies of the new witnesses and the new tapes would indicate that the eavesdropping operations were not confined to the wiretapping of phone conversations between Ms Arroyo and former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano.

EO 464 can't touch them

He refused to identify the new witnesses lest they become targets of threats to prevent them from appearing before the Senate.

"They will be identified on the day of the hearing. They're free to move (around)," he said.

The witnesses also are not covered by the controversial Executive Order No. 464, which bars people in the administration, including the Armed Forces and the police, from testifying in Congress without Ms Arroyo's consent, the senator said.

This would suggest that the new witnesses were not government people, or at least were no longer in government, if they ever were.

"These three can't be bribed," the senator said. "Their arms can't be twisted because they have their own stature in the first place."

Tapes are 'authentic'

"I don't think these people can be influenced by anyone, including the Senate committee," he added.

Biazon said he actually had three tapes but two of these were identical and he had listened to them and found them to be "authentic."

"These are in addition to the mother of all tapes," he said, referring to the Garci tapes on which Ms Arroyo and Garcillano were heard talking about alleged ways to tamper with the results of the 2004 elections.

The release of the tapes in June last year plunged the Arroyo presidency into its worst political crisis, triggering an impeachment complaint which the President's backers in Congress quashed.

Several voices

"I had finally examined them, and I think they're authentic enough to be presented and be acceptable in the conduct of the hearings," Biazon said of the new tapes.

He did not say how he got hold of them.

The tapes run from 15 to 25 minutes and cover conversations of different individuals from January to June 2004, according to Biazon.

"[There were] several conversations, different voices, different dates, and there is an annotator," he said.

Biazon also declined to identify the individuals wiretapped, but said that the tapes could be traced to "somebody" from the Intelligence Services of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp).

"I'm not yet ready to give you hints as to who they are," he said.

Traceable to Isafp

The Isafp had been tagged as the agency that had wiretapped Garcillano, but the military leadership has consistently denied this.

"I already have in my hands communication which is telling me who the source of the three tapes are ... I'm not saying Isafp. I'm saying that it's traceable to somebody from Isafp," Biazon said.

An INQUIRER special report in September mentioned sophisticated Isafp bugging equipment from the United States, purportedly to be used to track down suspected terrorists.

The equipment included a handy computer no bigger than an attaché case which could intercept phone conversations and record the voices of pre-programmed targets.

Aussie firm slapped P10.7M in fines

From page A1

Philippines' revitalized mining industry, said the maximum fine imposed on Lafayette was meant to prevent similar occurrences at other mining projects.

"[It] is well within the capability of the respondent (RRPI) to prevent (mine spills) should it only exercise prudence in the conduct of its business affairs," he said.

The project is said to be worth P10.4 billion.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources also upheld the suspension of Lafayette's gold mining operation.

Conditions

Lafayette will be allowed to resume operations only after it had met the following conditions:

- An approved environmental management system or ISO 14001 certification.
- A comprehensive pollution control program, including plans and specifications of the antipollution facility.
- Budget and chart of the activities.
- A surety bond of 25 percent of the total cost of the pollution control program.
- A detailed description of the interim remedial measures to mitigate pollution pending the completion of the pollution control program.
- Employment of a pollution control officer duly accredited by the DENR.
- A notarized undertaking from the company showing proof of compliance with all the conditions.

Lafayette was also required to rehabilitate its settling, polishing and event ponds to ensure that they could hold mine wastes and effluents from the project before resuming operations.

"No temporary lifting order shall be considered until the company has fulfilled all the requirements," Defensor said.

Gold milling stopped

Lafayette was ordered to stop gold milling operations on Nov. 14 after a defective valve and heavy rains forced the company to discharge waste water into the creeks last October.

Lolibeth Medrano, director of the Environmental Management Bureau, said the P10.4-million fine was the accumulated maximum penalty of P200,000 a day for companies that violate the Clean Water Act.

The amount represented the fines from Oct. 11, the first mine spill, to Dec. 14, the latest sampling date before the PAB issued its decision against RRPI.

The latest sampling done by the EMB was on Jan. 6, and the team found one sampling point in Rapu-Rapu that had high cyanide levels.

"The P10.4 million is just the initial fine. We will continue to fine them until they have complied with the EMB standards," Medrano said.

The EMB, however, is still computing the additional fines from Dec. 15 to Jan. 6.

The DENR is one of the lead agencies tasked with promoting mining as the backbone of the Arroyo administration's economic program.

Environmentalists and the European Commission have noted the conflicting mandate of the agency, which is also supposed to ensure resources conservation.

With a report from Gil Francis G. Arevalo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Arroyos now more ...

From page A1

ing Palace grounds for horseback riding lessons on a P15,000 pony.

Mike Arroyo will move into the office formerly occupied by Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye on the second floor of the main Palace building.

The office used to be the bedroom of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Bunye confirmed that he and the First Gentleman would swap offices as part of Ms Arroyo's plan to consolidate the Malacañang communication group on the third floor of the New Executive Building (NEB) outside the main Palace compound.

Change of heart

Mike Arroyo started moving out his office equipment from the NEB building yesterday.

Bunye's transfer was supposed to coincide with the transfer of the Press Office to the NEB, but Ms Arroyo had a change of heart about banishing the reporters from their current perch in the Kalayaan Hall building.

Ms Arroyo found out for herself how difficult and tiring it would be for media people to have to walk from the NEB to the main Palace compound for their daily news coverage.

Bunye said the First Gentleman wanted to be closer to his wife and grandchildren.

Mike Arroyo gifted Mikaela with a pony for Christmas after his eldest *apo* took to horseback riding during the family's Christmas vacation in Baguio City.

Mikaela was seen having a grand time riding the horse—bought in Batangas—in the Palace's yard for 45 minutes yesterday, with a *yaya* and two male assistants.

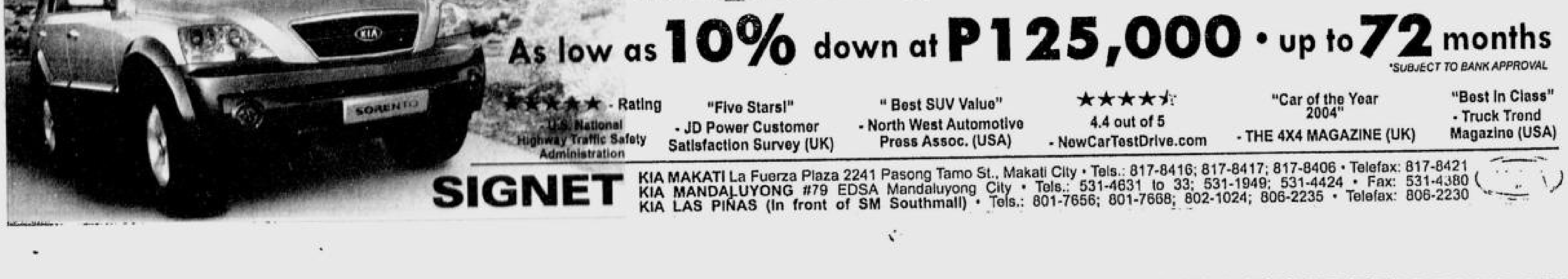
Apparently, Mikaela has taken an interest in the hobby of her daddy, Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel Arroyo, who is a horse breeder.

Only yesterday

Mike Arroyo's roosting at the Palace comes just six months after Ms Arroyo announced that her husband would go abroad to take some of the heat off her administration.

At that time, Mike Arroyo, his eldest son and brother were being linked to huge "jueteng" payoffs—allegations they denied—while Ms Arroyo herself, hounded by accusations that she had cheated in the 2004 elections, was struggling to keep her job.

The voluntary "self-exile" turned out to be a short one, with the First Gentleman flitting back and forth to the Philippines during that period.



SORENTO 4x4 CRDi TURBO
As low as 10% down at P125,000 • up to 72 months
*SUBJECT TO BANK APPROVAL
★★★★★ - Rating U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
"Five Stars!" - JD Power Customer Satisfaction Survey (UK)
" Best SUV Value" - North West Automotive Press Assoc. (USA)
★★★★½ 4.4 out of 5 - NewCarTestDrive.com
"Car of the Year 2004" - THE 4X4 MAGAZINE (UK)
"Best In Class" - Truck Trend Magazine (USA)
SIGNET
KIA MAKATI La Fuerza Plaza 2241 Pasong Tamo St., Makati City • Tels.: 817-8416; 817-8417; 817-8406 • Telefax: 817-8421
KIA MANDALUYONG #79 EDSA Mandaluyong City • Tels.: 531-4631 to 33; 531-1949; 531-4424 • Fax: 531-4380
KIA LAS PIÑAS (In front of SM Southmall) • Tels.: 801-7656; 801-7668; 802-1024; 806-2235 • Telefax: 806-2230

Selective abortion blamed for India's 10M missing girls

LONDON—ABOUT 10 MILLION FEMALE FEtuses may have been aborted in India over the past two decades, according to research published on Monday.

A team of scientists who analyzed female fertility figures from a national survey of 6 million people in India found that there were about half a million fewer girls born in the country in 1997 than expected.

Extrapolated over 20 years, the figure would be 10 million, the researchers said in a report published online by The Lancet medical journal.

They added that selective abortion of female fetuses is the most plausible explanation for the skewed sex ratio.

"We conservatively estimate that prenatal sex determination and selective abortion account for 0.5 million missing girls yearly," said Dr. Prabhat Jha, of the University of Toronto in Canada, who headed the research team.

"If this practice has been common for most of the past two decades since access to ultrasound become widespread, then a figure of 10 million missing female births would not be unreasonable," he added in a statement.

The findings support estimates by the Indian Medical Association which has said that five million female fetuses are killed in India each year.

Jha and his team found that the sex of the previous child was a determining factor in whether a female fetus was aborted.

Fewer females are born as second and third children if the first child in a family is a girl.

The researchers said lack of girls as a second or third child is more pronounced in educated, rather than illiterate, women.

"To have a daughter is socially and emotionally accepted if there is a son, but a daughter's arrival is often unwelcome if the couple already have a daughter," Prof. Shirish Sheth, of the Breach Candy Hospital in Mumbai, India, said in a commentary on the report.

Fetal sex determination and medical termination of pregnancy based on the sex of the fetus have been illegal since 1994, but Sheth said there is published evidence of rampant female feticide in India where daughters are regarded as a liability. *Reuters*

JUMP START
Three dogs jump rope with a trainer for the dog circus at a Tokyo shopping mall as an event of the Year of the Dog Jan. 9. The trick dogs attract shoppers for Japan's New Year holidays. AFP

Sharon breathing on his own

JERUSALEM—ISRAELI PRIME Minister Ariel Sharon began breathing on his own on Monday, the first positive sign as doctors tried to rouse him from a medically induced coma to assess brain damage from a massive stroke.

"He is still connected to respirators that help him but the prime minister is breathing spontaneously," Shlomo Mor-Yosef, director of Jerusalem's Hadassah hospital, told reporters.

As Israelis kept anxious vigil for the 77-year-old leader many had seen as the best hope for resolving their conflict with the Palestinians, Sharon's medical team gradually began reducing his sedation to help him regain consciousness.

The process is critical for determining the extent Sharon's faculties have been impaired and his chances for survival, though outside experts say there is no guarantee he will awaken from anaesthesia.

But only an hour after doctors began weaning Sharon off drugs that have kept in an induced coma since suffering the stroke on Wednesday, they reported he had begun taking breaths.

"This is one stage, a first stage," Mor-Yosef said.

But he said Sharon remained in critical condition.

Sharon's surgeons say there is a good chance he will live.

But medical consensus is he has suffered too much damage to ever return to politics, an arena he has dominated in recent years like no figure since founding Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion. *Reuters*

World's top polluters to fight climate change in alternative meet

CANBERRA—SIX OF THE world's top polluters meet in Sydney this week to promote clean energy technology as a way to tackle climate change without sacrificing economic growth.

The United States, Japan, China, India, Australia and South Korea will hold the first meeting of the Asia-Pacific Partnership for Clean Development and Climate—a pact they say will complement, not rival, the Kyoto Protocol on greenhouse gases.

But unlike Kyoto, the six members will not be backing fixed targets for cutting emissions from burning fossil fuels and some analysts expect any resolution to be vague.

Government sources told Reuters that the partnership plans to create a fund to help develop cleaner energy technologies, which Australia would kickstart with about A$100 million ($75 million). *Reuters*

RUNAWAY—French hostage Bernard Planche, 52, speaking on a phone at a US camp close to Baghdad. Planche, who was kidnapped from his home Dec. 5 in Baghdad, ran away Jan. 7 from a farmhouse where he was held after his captors fled US and Iraqi troops who were conducting a search. AFP

US helicopter crashes in Iraq; 12 on board die

BAGHDAD—A US MILITARY HELICOPTER crashed in Iraq, killing all 12 on board, while five more US soldiers died in the west of the country, the US military announced Sunday.

In other developments, a French hostage kidnapped by insurgents in Baghdad a month ago and threatened with death escaped from his captors.

A US spokesperson said the cause of Saturday night's crash of the Black Hawk near the restive city of Tal Afar in northwestern Iraq was under investigation, adding that there was severe weather at the time the helicopter went down.

"A coalition helicopter crashed in a sparsely populated area 12 kilometers east of Tal Afar shortly before midnight, killing passengers and crew," a statement said.

The Black Hawk was part of a two-aircraft mission flying between bases in northern Iraq when communications were lost with the aircraft on Saturday night, the military said.

"Flight records indicate that eight passengers and four crew members were manifested for the flight. An immediate search and rescue operation was launched from nearby military installations."

The spokesperson said he could not immediately give details about those on board the plane which was found at about noon on Sunday.

It was the second deadliest US military crash in Iraq since the March 2003 invasion, after a transport helicopter went down last January, killing 31 aboard.

Earlier, the US military announced that five US Marines had been killed in and around the restive western Iraqi town of Fallujah over the weekend. *AFP*

Philamlife has a new home in Batangas City!

The country's largest and most trusted life insurance company has moved to a bigger, better and more accessible home in Batangas City.

Today, January 10, marks the opening of Philamlife's new building in Hilltop, Batangas City. The building houses Philamlife's Batangas Regional Office and Business Center, as well as the offices of the Comia, Maligalig and Clet agencies.

So for all your insurance needs, visit Philamlife Batangas or call (043) 723-0410/723-0411!

PHIL-AM LIFE
PHIL-AM LIFE
Reader's Digest Philippines SUPERBRAND 2004 Voted by consumers PLATINUM
Reader's Digest Philippines SUPERBRAND 2005 Voted by consumers PLATINUM

Philamlife is the largest and most diversified insurance company in the Philippines and the undisputed market leader for over half a century. It offers the most comprehensive range of life and general insurance products that provide protection, savings and investments, education and personal accident coverage. Philamlife is a member company of American International Group, Inc. (AIG), world leaders in insurance and financial services. AIG is the leading international insurance organization with operations in more than 130 countries and jurisdictions.

PHILAM LIFE
Are You Ready for Life?
AIG A Member of American International Group, Inc.
528-2000
www.ephilam.com

The Philam Group of Companies offers you a full range of financial services: Life and General Insurance • Property and Casualty Insurance • Health Care Management
Pre-Need Plans • Banking • Mutual Funds • Property Development • Credit Cards • Business Process Outsourcing • Bancassurance • Financial Advisory Services

Man who shot Pope in 1981 to be freed

ANKARA, TURKEY—THE TURKISH MAN who shot Pope John Paul II in 1981 will be released on parole on Thursday, his lawyer told The Associated Press on Sunday.

A Turkish court last week decided to free Mehmet Ali Agca "on parole on Jan. 12," his lawyer, Mustafa Demirbag told AP by telephone.

"We were hiding the decision but it is not a secret anymore," Demirbag said. "He was eligible to be released on parole because he had no disciplinary problems."

Earlier, the semiofficial Anatolia news agency said a Turkish court had approved the release of Agca, 47, who was extradited to Turkey in 2000 after serving almost 20 years in prison in Italy for shooting and wounding the Pope in St. Peter's Square in Rome.

John Paul II met with Agca in Italy's Rebibbia prison in 1983 and forgave him for the shooting. The motive for the attack remains unclear.

Vatican spokesperson Joaquin Navarro-Valls said the Vatican would defer to the judgment of the Turkish tribunal.

"The Holy See has learned only from news agencies of the news of the possible freedom of Ali Agca," he said in a brief statement. "The Holy See, before a problem of a judicial nature, submits to the decisions of the tribunals involved in this matter."

Demirbag, explaining the court decision, said Agca was sentenced to life in prison, which amounts to 36 years under Turkish law, for murdering Turkish journalist Abdi Ipekci in 1979.

Agca served less than six months in a Turkish prison in 1979 for killing Ipekci before he escaped, resurfacing in 1981 in Rome. And an amnesty in 1991 deducted 10 more years from his time, leaving some 25½ years to be served, he said.

The court last week further deducted his 20 years in prison in Italy based on a new article in the penal code, which was amended by the Turkish government recently at the request of the European Union to raise the standard of human rights.

Agca who was extradited to Turkey on June 14, 2000 will have completed his time on Jan. 12, Demirbag said.

"On Jan. 12 he will complete his five years, six months and 27 days in prison," Demirbag said. "They can't keep him one more second."

After his extradition, Agca was separately sentenced to seven years and four months for two robberies in Turkey in 1979, but that imprisonment was ignored since he was already sentenced to life in prison, Demirbag said.

His family and another lawyer said they were not aware of the court decision. But it was not clear if they were hiding the court decision too.

"I'm surprised," another lawyer Dogan Yildirim said by telephone earlier. "If it's true, justice will finally be served. He has been in prison for so long."

Agca's sister, Fatma Agca, said: "We did not hear it." She was speaking to the AP from the family home in the southeastern city of Malatya.

The Anatolia agency suggested that Agca, a draft-dodger, might be taken to a military station following his release and to a military hospital later in Istanbul for medical checks, a routine procedure.

However, it was not clear if he will be enlisted in the Army, which generally accepts conscripts until 41.

Agca reportedly sympathized with the Gray Wolves, a far right-wing militant group that fought street battles against leftists in the 1970s. He initially confessed to killing Ipekci, one of the country's most prominent left-wing newspaper columnists, but later retracted his statements. *AP*

PHOTO taken May 13, 1981 shows Mehmet Ali Agca (center) surrounded by Italian policemen in Rome, a few minutes after he attempted to kill Pope John Paul II during a public audience at St. Peter's Square in Vatican City. AFP

Gunman's motive remains a mystery

By Selcan Hacaoglu

ANKARA, TURKEY—MEHMET ALI AGCA shocked the world with his assassination attempt on Pope John Paul II, but his motive for the attack—and whether he had help—remains shrouded in mystery nearly 25 years later.

Agca has only fueled conspiracy theories with his inconsistent and at times contradictory remarks about the May 13, 1981, shooting in Rome's St. Peter's Square.

Minutes after his arrest, Agca declared he had acted alone. But within days, police believed someone had given him money and other support.

In an interview last year with the Italian daily newspaper La Repubblica, Agca made contradictory remarks about his attempt on John Paul's life. He initially said Vatican prelates helped him carry out the shooting, adding: "The devil is within the Vatican."

He then reportedly said in the same interview that "nobody in the world knew of my attempt."

Some have speculated that agents from Bulgaria helped plot the assassination attempt because of that country's ties with the Soviet Union, which reportedly was alarmed by the Pope's support for the Solidarity trade union in Poland.

During a 2002 trip to Bulgaria, however, John Paul sought to lay the issue to rest, declaring he never believed there was a Bulgarian connection to Agca.

Others have pinned blame on the Soviets, who reportedly worried the Polish Pope would stir uprisings against communism across Eastern Europe.

"Mehmet Ali Agca was an agent and hired killer for the Soviet Union, who wanted Pope John Paul II killed because of his opposition to communism and his support for Solidarity labor movement in Poland. He should not be released from prison," Raymond Flynn, former US ambassador to the Vatican and a longtime friend of Pope John Paul II, said in a statement Sunday. *AP*

UN envoy to Burma quits, slams entry ban

KUALA LUMPUR—THE UNITed nations envoy to Burma, Razali Ismail, said Sunday he had quit his post after being refused entry for the past two years to the military-ruled country where he is pushing for reforms.

Razali, a former Malaysian diplomat who has been trying to break Burma's political impasse since 2000, said he would not renew his contract which ran until the end of last year.

"My contract lapsed after December 2005. It is clear they (the military junta) do not want me back," Razali told AFP.

"I have not been allowed to visit the Burma leadership in Rangoon in the past 22 months."

He said that the United Nations had accepted his decision to quit his role as secretary-general Kofi Annan's special envoy to Burma.

"So it is time for me to make an exit," he said.

Razali was the catalyst for landmark contacts between the Burma government and democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi, which created excitement when they began in October 2000.

Fresh hopes for change in Burma, which has been ruled by the military for four decades, came when Aung San Suu Kyi, the leader of the National League for Democracy (NLD), was released from house arrest in May 2002.

RAZALI AP

But those hopes evaporated a year later when the Nobel Peace Prize winner was taken into "protective custody" after clashes between her supporters and those of the government. She remains confined to her home in Yangon.

NLD spokesperson U Lwin said in Yangon that Razali's resignation was not unexpected after his long period in the cold.

"It doesn't surprise me. He's been trying to come here for the past two years. He must have become very frustrated. I'm not surprised he's resigned," he told AFP.

Thai foreign ministry spokesperson Sihasak Phuangketkeow said Razali had played a "key role" in Burma.

"I do hope that his resignation will not affect the UN's attempt to build peace in Burma," he said. "I hope that Burma realizes the need to maintain a contact channel with the world community."

Razali has regularly expressed pessimism over prospects for change in Burma and said last month that Southeast Asia's new campaign to push the generals into releasing Aung San Suu Kyi was unlikely to be successful any time soon.

He has also urged the 10-nation regional body, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), to take a tougher line against the ex-British colony formerly known as Burma.

Asean, which usually maintains a policy of noninterference in each member countries' affairs, has recently stepped up its criticism of Burma in the face of mounting pressure from the rest of the international community.

At its summit in Kuala Lumpur last month the region's leaders wrung an agreement from Burma to accept a visit from their representative, Malaysia's Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar, to check on the progress of promised reforms.

However, in a move likely to upset its neighbors, the military regime said Friday it was too busy to receive Syed Hamid this month because it is in the process of relocating its capital.

Razali expressed disappointment with the development and warned of further delays.

"I think Syed Hamid's visit is in line with Asean's aspirations. I think more delays could be expected," he said.

Burma was accepted into Asean in 1997 but has become a source of embarrassment for the regional body which is now urging it to move towards democracy and release hundreds of political prisoners.

The country's military took power in 1988 after crushing massive prodemocracy demonstrations, and refused to hand power to Aung San Suu Kyi's NLD after it won 1990 general elections.

The junta is holding a national convention to draft a constitution under a "roadmap to democracy", but no timetable has been set and Aung San Suu Kyi's party is boycotting the process because of her continued detention. *AFP*

Look Younger Than Your Old Photos

Thousands of men and women around the world—and now in the Philippines—have experienced Nu/Hart's superior service and unbeatable results in hair restoration.

More and more people, including some highly-visible Filipino personalities, have benefited from the natural, permanent solution to hair loss being offered by Nu/Hart Manila through state-of-the-art hair transplantation. And the list keeps growing.

Nu/Hart Hair Clinics have been dedicated exclusively to hair restoration since 1984, and are responsible for developing some of the highest standards in the field of hair transplantation. We have performed over 25,000 procedures on men and women from over 40 countries around the world.

So don't despair over your disappearing hair. Join the growing list of satisfied Nu/Hart clients and restore your natural hairline, your looks and your confidence.

A Nu/Hart hair transplant is:
- Permanent and growing
- Natural, using your own hair
- Maintenance-free
- Affordable
- No monthly visits

0% INTEREST MONTHLY PAYMENT PLANS AVAILABLE

CALL OR VISIT US NOW FOR A FREE PRIVATE CONSULTATION.
638-6000
28/F Wynsum Plaza, 22 F Ortigas Jr. Road
(formerly Emerald Avenue) Ortigas (Behind Discovery Suites)

IN THE U.S. CALL
1-800-776-7775
VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT
www.nuhart.com
OR EMAIL US AT
info@nuhart.com

P10,000 off

NU/HART HAIR CLINICS
THERE'S A NEW YOU WAITING AT NU/HART

Chat On Our Web Site With A Live Consultant.

CONSULTATIONS AVAILABLE IN BACOLOD, CEBU, DAVAO, AND ILOILO.

MANILA • HONG KONG • NEW YORK • CHICAGO • ATLANTA • PITTSBURGH • PHILADELPHIA • PUERTO RICO • DUBAI

Iran ignores West warnings, to resume nuke fuel research

TEHRAN—IRAN SAID IT WILL REsume nuclear fuel research on Monday, despite Western warnings it could jeopardize any efforts to end the long-running standoff over Tehran's nuclear program.

"Today, under the supervision of the agency, research activities will resume," government spokesperson Gholam Hossein Elham said, referring to the International Atomic Energy Agency, the UN nuclear watchdog.

Europe has warned the move would jeopardize any resumption of wider talks on ending the crisis with the West over Iran's nuclear activities.

Washington, which accuses Iran of seeking to build nuclear weapons, has also said any resumption of research into the fuel cycle might spur it to seek Iran's referral to the UN Security Council for enforcement action.

Iran has been trying to make a distinction between research into the nuclear fuel cycle and actual production of enriched uranium, which can be used as fuel in civil reactors or, in highly enriched form, as the explosive core of an atom bomb.

The announcement came after talks between Russia and Iran on a proposed compromise to end the row over uranium enrichment broke off without result Sunday but are due to resume in a month.

"Negotiations to reach a final conclusion are going to be continued on Feb. 16 in Moscow," said Hossein Entezami, spokesperson for the National Security Council which is in charge of the nuclear file.

"Negotiations ended on Sunday after three rounds of talks, which resulted in some understandings," he was quoted in Monday's press as saying.

Moscow is proposing that Tehran carry out uranium enrichment on Russian territory to allay Western fears that the technology could allow Iran to produce a nuclear bomb.

Both the European Union and the United States have backed the proposal in principle.

In recent weeks, Iranian officials have blown hot and cold about the proposed compromise, first suggesting that they might consider it and then insisting that they would do so only if any deal explicitly recognized its right to carry out enrichment on Iranian soil. *AFP*

MIGRANT workers warm themselves around a bonfire in Allahabad, in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, Jan. 9. Schools across Uttar Pradesh were ordered shut Monday as icy winds and bitter cold claimed eight more lives overnight. AP

Cold snap kills over 180 in S. Asia, closes schools

LUCKNOW, INDIA—SCHOOLS across northern India's Uttar Pradesh state were ordered shut Monday, as the death toll from a spell of icy winds and bitter cold since November rose to more than 180 across South Asia, officials and news reports said.

Hundreds of homeless people huddled around bonfires lit by municipal authorities and volunteer groups in Lucknow, the capital of Uttar Pradesh, where 109 people have died since the cold snap began, including eight who froze to death overnight, said police spokesperson Avinash Mehrotra.

"All those who died were homeless," he said.

Kiranpal Singh, the state's education minister, said the schools would remain shut until Jan. 14 "in view of the cold wave sweeping" the region.

In the Indian capital of New Delhi, temperatures plunged to a 70-year low of 0.2 C (32.4 F) on Sunday, the meteorology department said. Temperatures at this time of year are normally about 7 C (12.6 F) higher.

At least 15 other people have died of cold in northern Punjab and Haryana states since November, while another seven deaths have been reported in Jammu-Kashmir state, bringing India's death toll to 131.

In neighboring Pakistan, at least 47 people have died of cold and pneumonia from a week of frigid weather in the country's remote northern Himalayan region, Dawn newspaper reported Monday.

The region is outside areas hit by a giant Oct. 8 earthquake that killed at least 87,000 people.

The World Health Organization last week reported 18 cold-related deaths in the quake zone over the previous six weeks.

Anectodal reports suggest many more may have died, although the deaths have not been tallied by authorities, in part because some areas are inaccessible.

The meteorological department forecast cloudy weather for Monday, and rain and snow for Tuesday, in most of the country, including quake-hit areas. Another spell of heavy rain and snow is expected in the quake zone from Jan. 14-22.

In Nepal, meanwhile, at least three people died Sunday from the cold in Janakpur, 200 km southeast of the capital, Katmandu, said Umesh Pokhrel, a government official. He had no information on how many people have died so far in the Himalayan kingdom. *AP*

MORE HUMAN CASES IN TURKEY

Authorities struggle to cope as bird flu threatens Europe

ANKARA—FIVE MORE TURKS, including two small boys and an adult in Ankara, tested positive for H5N1 bird flu Sunday as the deadly virus continued to move west toward Europe and authorities seemed to have trouble coping with the disease.

A team of experts from the World Health Organization (WHO) traveled to the worst-hit regions in Turkey's east to assess the government's response and look for any signs of the much-feared human-to-human transmission of the virus.

The new cases—two in the eastern city of Van and three in Ankara—were all from the lethal H5N1 strain of avian influenza, a health ministry official told the Anatolia news agency, bringing to nine the number of infected people, all but one of them children.

Of the nine, a brother and sister from eastern Turkey died last week after playing with sick chicken, becoming the first victims of bird flu outside Southeast Asia and China, where the disease has killed more than 70 people since 2003.

A third sibling also perished, but the cause of her death is still to be determined.

The cases in Ankara, situated some 1,000 km from the region where the deaths occurred, mark the further westward spread of the disease.

A senior WHO scientist said the outbreak in Turkey did not indicate increased risk for humans and blamed the spread on insufficient health controls in the vast country.

"It seems that the epidemic has been spreading among animals in Turkey for much longer than believed," the WHO's Klaus Stoehr told German radio.

As emergency culls continued and more bans were imposed on the sale and movement of fowl, people in remote regions in the impoverished, mainly Kurdish east handled the crisis with their own methods.

In the village of Telceker, on the border with Iran, dead chicken were dumped into a stream or buried in plastic bags.

"Sometimes the dogs unearth the chickens and then the crows come to eat them," 12-year-old Murat Ozer said.

His neighbor, Gogey, put her last surviving hen in a plastic bag and buried it in a pit, complaining that no health or veterinary official had so far visited the village where poultry continue to perish.

Newspapers splashed pictures of children tossing dead chickens in the air and cleaning slaughtered birds with their bare hands at poultry bazaars, officially banned in the east.

Many families were hiding their birds from slaughter teams, reluctant to part with what is often their most precious belongings.

With many people in the region illiterate and not speaking Turkish, efforts to raise their awareness are likely to produce less than the desired impact.

Iran, which shares a lengthy border with eastern Turkey, closed at least one crossing point between the two countries, local Turkish officials told Anatolia.

The two boys hospitalized in Ankara, aged two and five, were believed to have touched gloves used by their father to carry to the authorities two wild ducks dead from bird flu he had found earlier this week in a reservoir outside their hometown of Beypazari, doctors said.

The third patient, a 60-year-old man from an Ankara suburb, was infected after coming in close contact with chicken he bred.

The three were reported well, with the boys showing no sign of illness yet.

The new cases at the university hospital in Van, which treats the majority of people suspected of being infected, were identified as a girl and a boy, aged nine and three.

Two others, a five-year-old boy and an eight-year-old girl, have already been confirmed as H5N1 carriers in the same hospital, where some 40 people are currently undergoing treatment.

Health Minister Recep Akdag, accompanying the WHO team to the east, said there was no indication so far to suggest the disease is being transmitted between humans—a possibility scientists fear may spark a deadly global pandemic.

As dozens of panicked people rushed to hospitals across the country, the presence of the virus among winged animals was also confirmed in Istanbul and two other western regions.

Istanbul is the westernmost point where bird flu has been found since it resurfaced in Turkey last month, after a first outbreak in the northwest in October was successfully contained.

Syria, Turkey's southern neighbor, announced it was clear of the virus and denied rumors that a man had died from the disease near the border with Turkey.

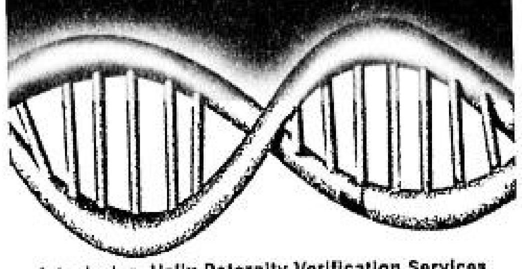
Russia said it was planning to send several health experts to help Turkey "as soon as possible" in response to a WHO request. *AFP*

Do you have
BAD BREATH?
A SURE CURE. Therabreath™ system effectively removes harmful bacteria that caused Bad Breath, gum disease, tooth decay and related problem of bitter/ sour tastes, phlegm in throat, pasty saliva, post nasal drip, awful morning breath.
GET A BABY'S BREATH WITH THERABREATH™ SYSTEM
Gain confidence, improve your social life.
Free use of Halmeter for monitoring bad breath condition.
MONEY BACK GUARANTEE
Will refund money if no good results within 7 days treatment.
Free delivery w/ in Metro Manila
Call: Tel # 890-8380; 895-5532
807-2466; 895-6775
Cel# 09177965859; 09202267717

Elite
Mitho Plus
Optima
Silver Jet

A MUST IN EVERY BUSINESS!
We Offer The World's Most Trusted High Pressure Washers & Vacuum Cleaners!
* Hose Reel Optional
With AFTER SALES SERVICE
FROM THE No. 1 IN HIGH PRESSURE WASHERS
Major Credit Cards Accepted.
Deferred Payments Up To 24 Mos.
Exclusively Distributed By:
CLEANCITY COMMERCIAL INCORPORATED
MANILA: 1851 M.Orosa St., Malate, Manila Tel. Nos.: 5244328 • 5240529 • 5245290
QUEZON CITY: 646 Quezon Ave. Tel. 7490581 • 7493709

STOP GUESSING!



Introducing, Helix Paternity Verification Services.
DNA testing that's 100% professional and confidential.
With minimum accuracy of 99.999% guaranteed!
Unit 16-A, First Basement, Makati Cinema Square, Chino Roces Ave., Makati City • 811-6408 • helixpvs@yahoo.com

HALF PRICE!
SPACIO
home and office design

Our Spacio office partitions are so affordable - you would think they were half-priced!
CALL US:
MODULAR METAL PHILIPPINES,INC.
86 East Drive St., Parang, Marikina City
Tels.: 948-7729, 948-7730
Telefax: 942-1363
E-mail: spacio888@yahoo.com

SAN BEDA COLLEGE (Mendiola)
Graduate School of Law

The Graduate School of Law of San Beda College announces a one-week course on "The Legal Aspects Of Hospital Administration And Health-Care Delivery" from February 7 (Tuesday) to February 11 (Saturday) at San Beda College, Mendiola.

The course will include tort and damage claims, criminal liabilities, administrative aspects of hospital administration, labor and employment issues as well as corporate considerations.

A fee of php 6,000 per participant will be assessed that will include morning, afternoon snacks and lunch. Accommodations are not included and will be the concern of the individual participant.

Please signify your intention to attend by calling
Mr. Alboy Narag (+639209081432) or
Mr. Jayjay Garan (02-735-7861, loc. 3112, or
+639062415504)

Sign up NOW for FREE seminars!
Limited slots available!

PC MAGAZINE PHILIPPINES
HOW-TO ROADSHOW
5 seminars for IT managers and owners of small and medium businesses.

SCHEDULE OF SEMINARS*
(CHECK THE BOXES OF UP TO TWO TOPICS THAT YOU'RE INTERESTED IN)

BUILDING YOUR TECHNOLOGY ENVIRONMENT
☐ 1 January 19, 2006. 9 am to 5 pm.
Discovery Suites,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Learn the basics for setting up your own information and communication infrastructure with minimum pain and maximum performance.

KEEPING EVERYBODY CONNECTED
☐ 2 February 7, 2006. 9 am to 5 pm.
Richmonde Hotel,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Wire (or unwire) your business, link your office PCs together, and keep in touch with your personnel at all times.

PUTTING YOUR COMPANY ON THE INTERNET MAP
☐ 3 February 23, 2006. 9 am to 5 pm.
Dusit Hotel Nikko, Makati City
Everything you wanted to know about e-commerce, the Philippine online business environment, and what you need to get on the internet map.

FROM PAPER TO DIGITAL
☐ 4 March 14, 2006. 9 am to 5 pm.
Linden Suites,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Reduce your paperwork, get rid of bulky records, and free up your office space by going digital.

BUILDING YOUR MOBILE OFFICE
☐ 5 March 30, 2006. 9 am to 5 pm.
Mandarin Oriental Hotel,
Makati City
Make the most of mobile technologies to maximize the productivity of your sales and field personnel outside the office space.

Lunch and Snacks will be served.
PLUS giveaways from our sponsors.

*PC MAGAZINE reserves the right to screen the participants for this event. Maximum of two (2) representatives per company.

For reservations, please fax this form to 759-2022 to 24 or email details to editors@pcmag.ph

Name:
Age:
Company:
Address:
Position:
Contact no.:
Nature of Business:

ISSN 0116-2642
INQUIRER
Vol. 21 No. 33

OPINION

Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net
Text us your feedback: inquirer opi name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

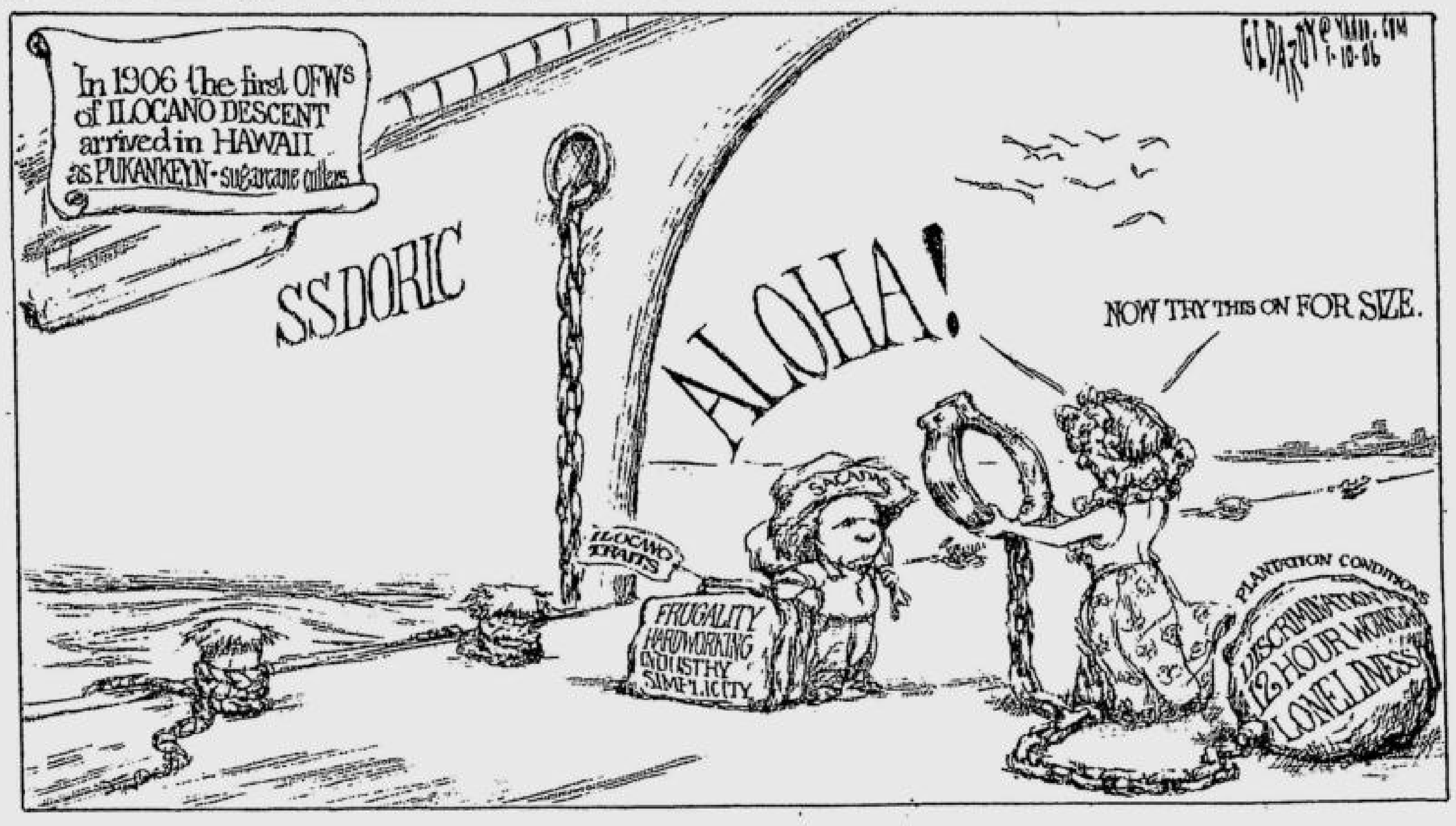
The Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 /
528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.
•100% soy ink•

Publisher **Isagani Yambot**
Editor in Chief **Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc**
Managing Editor **Jose Ma. D. Nolasco**
Associate Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**
Associate Editor for Readership **Rosario A. Garcellano**
News Editor **Artemio T. Engracia Jr.** • *Chief, News Day Desk* **Nilo B. Paurom**
Opinion Editor **Jorge V. Aruta**
National Editor **Pergentino B. Bandayrel Jr.**
Senior Desk Editor **Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.**
Editorial Consultant **Amando Doronila**
Chief Photographer **Ernie U. Sarmiento**
Art & Design Director **Lynett A. Villariba**

Board Chairman **Marixi R. Prieto**
President **Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez**
Executive Vice President **David O. Valdes**
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing **Renato R. Reinoso**
VP for Advertising **Felipe R. Olarte**
AVP for Circulation **Gloria P. Lardizabal**

Readers' Advocate **Lorna Kalaw Tirol**
readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph • Tel. No. 897-8808, Loc. 342

All rights reserved. Except as permitted by law, no part of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means stored in a database or retrieval system without its prior written permission.


In 1906 the first OFWs of ILOCANO DESCENT arrived in HAWAII as PUKANKEYN-sugarcane cutters
SS DORIC
ALOHA!
NOW TRY THIS ON FOR SIZE.
ILOCANO TRAITS
FRUGALITY
HARDWORKING
INDUSTRY
SIMPLICITY
SACADAS
PLANTATION CONDITIONS
DISCRIMINATION
12 HOUR WORK
LONELINESS
GLDAROY@YAHOO.COM 1-10-06

Poor and hungry

EDITORIAL

A RECENT SURVEY MADE BY THE SOCIAL WEATHER Stations showed that nearly 17 out of 100 Filipinos said they went hungry at least once in the fourth quarter of last year. Fifty-seven percent of those surveyed also described themselves as poor, up 8 percentage points from 49 percent in the previous quarter.

But we do not need a survey to validate what everybody already knows: the Philippines is a nation where the great majority are poor and where many people go hungry some, if not most, of the time. In urban centers like Metro Manila, poor people scrounging for something to eat from garbage cans and dumps are a common sight.

Last Monday, President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the release of P35 billion in government savings to subsidize rice and noodles and finance projects for the poor. But low-priced rice and noodles should be considered only a temporary palliative and not a permanent solution to the problem of poverty and hunger. The President recognizes this, and has announced that the fund would also finance pro-poor programs such as education, housing, health and public works.

A reexamination of the problem of poverty and hunger should go beyond temporary palliatives and short-term solutions and prompt government decision makers to review policies and programs. Emmanuel de Dios, a UP economic professor who directed the "Crisis of Poverty" Research Program, said the principal reason poverty has remained high was "the economy's simple failure to grow rapidly enough, sustain that growth and generate employment."

De Dios said that solving the problem of poverty will mean primarily focusing on growth and on the opening of new jobs. "Poverty in this country is high because growth has not been sustained and because whatever benefits it has generated have been unevenly distributed," he said. The Philippines is actually two nations in one country: a nation of the very rich and another nation of the very poor. In the 1990s, ten percent of the population controlled 36 percent of total income. The richest 20 percent enjoyed more than half of the income and the poorest 40 percent received only 14 percent of it. The situation remains pretty much the same today.

A total solution to the problem of poverty and hunger has to focus on the rural areas where two-thirds of all poor families live. An earnest, sustained implementation of the agrarian reform program should create jobs and increase income in the rural areas. But because of resistance from the landed elite, the agrarian reform program has been carried out in fits and starts. The elite have to be convinced that for the nation to achieve faster economic growth, an honest-to-goodness agrarian reform program has to be carried out.

Many people resist liberalization, but it is already a fact of life. We cannot turn back the hands of time. The way to fight what are perceived as the evil effects of liberalization is to restructure the economy to promote greater competitiveness. Education and skills training should upgrade the occupational standing of the members of the work force, so that even if they have to go abroad to work they will command higher wages and salaries.

Another UP economics professor, Gonzalo Jurado, suggests that the industrial sector should adopt modern technology and should be assisted in doing so. Improved technology at the top of the industrial pyramid would benefit industries at the lower level of the industrial structure and enable these industries to create more jobs. The government and the private sector will also have to increase their spending on research and development so that the country can wean itself away from dependence on foreign technology.

The President mentioned housing as one of the sectors to which part of the P35 billion would go. It's high time a massive, nationwide low-cost housing program was undertaken. It would kill two birds with one stone: relieve the housing backlog and at the same time help pump-prime the economy because of the multiplier effect of construction activity. At the same time, a more extensive infrastructure program should open up depressed areas to development and promote domestic trade.

The time may also be auspicious to improve the family planning program. An intensive educational campaign on family planning has to be conducted, and the poor should be given better access to family planning services.

The Philippines does not have to remain poor and hungry forever. It has the manpower and natural resources needed to attain a higher degree of development. What it needs is dynamic leadership, an enlightened private sector and the right programs and policies.

Murky lakes

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"A LAKE IS EARTH'S EYE," HENRY THOREAU once wrote. In them, "the beholder can measure the depth of his own nature."

So, what do our lakes—Manguao in Palawan, Balinsasayao in Negros, Manapao in Camarines Sur or Taal in Batangas—tell about us?

Although the data is spotty, it tells enough to disturb. A fund-strapped Department of Environment and Natural Resources hasn't budged beyond inventories and scattered studies. In 700-hectare Lake Manguao, fish fauna were identified—in the 1920s. Little has been done since then.

But even patchy research reveals Manguao's unique ecosystem. Its endemic and rare fish, include *puntius bantolanensis* and *manguaoensis*, from the soft-fin (*cyprinid*) family. And the lake is undisturbed—"a rare example in the Philippines," says Academe II. "Give conservation thought now, to safeguard the scientific value and ensure people around the lake will benefit."

But for a country hooked on politics, lakes are back burner issues. Deposed President Joseph Estrada, hallucinating on chairing the Council of State, raises more tempers than shrunken fish catches from the 340-sq km Lake Lanao, one of the world's "15 ancient lakes."

Lakes perform often undervalued functions, including provision of water, irrigation, flood drainage and food. Pens in the 26,000-ha Lake Taal produced, in a year, 18,800 tons of fish worth P952 million, an Asian Development Bank case study shows.

For people in countries like Bangladesh, the Philippines and Malawi, fish accounts for three-quarters of animal protein. About 17 percent of total catch comes from freshwater bodies.

Lakes have eco-tourism potentials. Reclining lilies ("Ravi") that line the Agus River, leading to Lake Lanao, mirror the poet's "host of golden daffodils ... dancing by the lake." And some lake environs abound with rich plant and wildlife.

But kiss tourists goodbye if we treat lakes as latrine-cum-garbage bins. Look at Laguna de Bay, our largest lake. Jose Rizal depicted its beauty in his novels, "Noli Me Tangere" and "El Filibusterismo."

Not anymore. Raw sewage from the metropolis smears the surface waters of its tributaries. Add detergents, chemicals, fertilizer runoffs, heavy metals, etc. and the result is a noxious cocktail that kills fish and plants. A superb water reservoir is turned into a turgid cesspool.

Lack of infrastructure in Lanao results "in most localities around the lake, lacking water for drinking or irrigation," notes the Food and Agriculture Organization which operates an environmental management project. "Filthy water cannot be washed," says an African proverb.

Pressure meanwhile builds up on lakes and their vital ecosystems. This stems from waves of migrants, food need, new technology—and expectations.

In Cuernos de Negros and Lake Balinsasayao, Silliman scientists reported, two rare forest frogs (*Platymantis negrosensis and P. dorsalis*) are now rarely heard. The first "no longer exists in the forest fragments in southwestern Negros ... and is critically endangered," scientists informed the Global Amphibian Assessments Group. The other disappeared in all but one limestone fragment

So, what's the big deal about croakers vanishing? Ask political leaders.

Their vision doesn't go beyond the next elections. Few see that disappearing Negros frogs and silent forests and empty streams signal trouble ahead.

Amphibians' permeable skin and land-and-water habitats form early warning indicators. They signal that pollution, degradation, even climate change, are breaching danger points. Frogs and other amphibians are like "canaries in the coal mine," US zoologists told the Boston Globe. "They're red flags to watch."

Of 5,743 known species of amphibians, 1,856 face extinction, the journal Science reports. "More than 100 species may already be extinct, and 43 percent are in a population decline—many for unknown reasons."

If lakes are to survive, voices other than that of parochial politicians must be heard. "Encourage universities and scientific institutions to integrate critical national problems in their teaching and research agendas—and speak up," suggest Living Lake leaders.

Bicol University College of Fisheries researchers in Albay probed threats to the world's smallest commercial fish, the *sinarapan* (*mistichthys luzonensis*). It once flourished in the Lake Manapao Sanctuary of Camarines Sur. But over-fishing by motorized vessels savaged its breeding and feeding grounds. So did fishing by poison. Sharp drops in *sinirapan* catches alarmed lake communities. And scientists helped draft action programs.

Does introducing species like *tilapia nitolica* unleash predators in lakes? Nile tilapia was introduced in Camarines, Palawan and Lanao, among other provinces, during the "Green Revolution," with its overload of good intentions, leaky quarantine rules and a shortage of scientific caution. Introduced perch became predators and turned Uganda's Lake Victoria into the world's "largest pool of dead water." Known as the "aquatic chicken," tilapia is farmed in 85 countries today. But doubts persist here.

Policies and programs for lakes to address such issues are of more import to Filipinos than Estrada's next pass from detention. Official mind-sets must be recast before fishing nets will strain to breaking point from rich catches, as they once did in Lake Galilee.

(E-mail : juan_mercado@pacific.net.ph)

And now the teachers

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

ALEJANDRO LICHAUCO HAD A VERY INTERESTING article last week. Government, he said, is rejoicing over something that it really ought to be grieving about. The inflow of foreign exchange that has strengthened the peso, he said, has a humongous cost, one that will ravage the country in the long run. "The rising level of inward remittances from our overseas workers is the most valuable evidence of the brain drain we are experiencing."

But that's not the worst of it, he said. What is worst is that our overseas workers now include teachers. "A decade or so ago, we hardly heard of teachers joining the club of overseas workers. Entertainers, yes, along with carpenters, mechanics and other skilled workers. Now it seems that teachers haven't only joined the workers' exodus but in fact have come to outnumber the entertainers and perhaps the plumbers, carpenters and other skilled workers too.

"In essence, what we are gaining in dollars, we are losing in valuable human and intellectual capital... This is far more devastating than the drain of our natural wealth, lost through our indiscriminate exportation of natural resources."

I myself have learned that the remittances shot up from $8 billion last year to a whopping $12 billion this year, the $10 billion through normal government-monitored channels and the remaining $2 billion through the backdoor. But however the dollars got in, they boosted the peso tremendously. Part of the reason for the rise in remittances was that, times being hard, the OFWs gave more to tide their families and relatives over. The other reason was that true enough, the new entrants to the force, the caregivers and the teachers, earned more and so could afford to send more.

My own sources say caregivers remain the biggest drain on the country, not the teachers. That is so because teaching requires more language skills than care-giving. But which also means that it's the cream of the crop in the teaching profession that's being lured abroad.

I share Lichauco's dismay, or alarm, at the depth of the brain drain. This is brain drain in the very literal sense of the word. We're no longer being drained of excess labor, we're being drained of critical manpower. It's bad enough that the hospitals and clinics are losing doctors and nurses, it's worse that the universities are losing teachers. Last I looked, which was five years ago in the Asia Week ranking of schools, our top three universities, which used to vie for the top spots among Asian academic institutions, had slipped to No. 48, No. 71 and No. 72. It's Singapore that is outpacing everyone, paying huge sums to teachers from Asia and other countries. It has its priorities in the right place. Knowledge is the greatest capital there is.

The loss to the country is additionally enormous given that the cost of training the teachers and nurses, many of whom are doctors. The joke that you have to pass the medical board exams first to study to become a nurse falls on this country. To paraphrase a local proverb, we're the ones who cooked the rice, somebody else ate it.

Now, every time you complain about this, you're bound to encounter an idiot who tells you to criticize the politicians all you want but leave the caregivers and other OFWs well enough alone. What can I say? It is a testament to our increasing loss not just of the people who are taking care of our bodies but those who are taking care of our minds that many Filipinos are now hard put to think, let alone think clearly. Let me put it as starkly as I can: I do not blame OFWs, I do not disparage caregivers, I do not denigrate the dignity of labor in whatever form. But I do fulminate against several things:

One is the havoc the Diaspora is wreaking upon the country, and will continue to wreak upon the country. Who doesn't want to get out of the country given the absolute mess the government has made of it? But understanding the reasons people are desperate to leave it cannot blind you either to the fact that the massive exodus, or the compelling desire to join, is pauperizing the country beyond belief. When you have thousands of doctors turning themselves into caregivers just to work abroad, you know you're in deep organic fertilizer. You add to that your best teachers, and Lichauco is right to complain the not-very-long-term impact is bound to be more incalculable than the loss of our forests and fishes.

Two is the attitude of mediocrity—no, the defeatist mentality that says beggars cannot be choosers—that the entire syndrome is foisting on us. I have no problem with caregivers per se, I have every problem with the height of our national aspiration, or the zenith of our personal ambitions, being reduced to becoming a caregiver. I have a problem with the entire educational system being refashioned—whole nursing wings have sprouted in universities—to serve the purpose. I have a problem with an entire nation whose mental, intellectual and human horizons do not go past surviving by cleaning the toilet bowls of the world. We're not just the sick man of Asia, we're the joke of Asia.

And three is a government that not only does not attempt to hold on to the country's best and brightest but drives them mercilessly away. I do not know what the solution to the current Diaspora is; it's become a monstrous problem. I do know the solution to it is not a government that is making this country unlivable and profits from it by getting more and more dollars from the people it drives away. That is the real double whammy.

But now the teachers too! The only time the Diaspora will serve a great purpose is if we started exporting our public officials. With the label: "Not fragile, feel free to rough up."

That lousy feeling

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

SEN. MAR ROXAS, A US-TRAINED INVESTMENT banker before he went into politics, has been criticized for "belittling" the strong peso's impact on the lives of the common folk. He was also criticized for blunting Malacañang's "unrelenting optimism" over positive indicators such as the phenomenal surge of stocks, bonds and real estate property. He had said that while these "headline statistics" trumpeted by the government are good, "why is it that everybody is feeling lousy and their sales reflect this lousiness?"

I agree about the lousy feeling, but perhaps the "headline statistics" are not solely to blame for it. It's a fact that hot money, i.e., funds invested in stocks, debt papers and real property, are an indication of confidence in the government; moreover, everyone knows that hot money is usually followed by foreign direct investments which provide jobs.

The lousy feeling, I believe, stems from the terrible state of our politics over the past year, where the opposition has spared no effort to knock down this government, principally through interminable investigations that led to nowhere. If the statements of foreign investment companies are any indication, political instability has been the primary reason for our unattractive investments climate. Unfortunately the Senate to which Roxas belongs has been a primary contributor to the lousy feeling everyone has, what with all those grandstanding senators.

* * *

In Rome a few months ago, Philippine Ambassador Philippe Lhuillier told us about an exploratory study of the Filipino youth phenomenon in Italy today. He sought our help in publicizing it so that appropriate help could be obtained. The study was conducted by a group called Pilipinas OFSPES, in collaboration with Sentro Filipino, founded in 1991, that brings together the more than 40 Catholic church communities there into one Filipino chaplaincy. It noted that while there are between 30,000 and 40,000 Filipinos in Rome and about 105,000 in the entire Italy (Lhuillier thinks it's closer to 180,000), making Pinoys the fourth largest migrant community in Italy, the number of Pinoy youth (those between 12 to 30 years old) has been rising dramatically. This is because parents legally bring in their children before they reach the 18-year-old limit, and an estimated 750 babies are born to Filipino parents in Italy yearly. While it's a positive thing for Pinoy families to be reunited with their children, serious problems and concerns related to these "second generation migrants" ought to be addressed by various institutions, such as the Philippine and Italian governments, the Church, parents and the OFW community abroad.

* * *

The study noted that many youths migrate to Italy not of their own volition. Uprooted from their familiar environment and friends and loved ones back home, the youths encounter new stresses from adjustment to a new culture and system with its new set of values and norms, which often conflict with their old Pinoy values, and a totally unfamiliar language. Moreover, many OFW parents are often too busy with multiple jobs to attend to their uprooted children. Thus, it's not surprising that most migrant youths undergo tremendous, even overwhelming feelings of insecurity and doubt, loneliness, failure and lack of confidence. At times, they engage in "socially undesirable behavior" such as dropping out of school, gambling, drinking, drug abuse and teenage pregnancies.

The adverse situation is by no means confined to Pinoy youths, and Italian schools are said to be quite unprepared for the explosion of foreign enrollment from 30,000 to 300,000 in 10 years. Fortunately, there have been other studies of the migrant youth phenomenon in host countries such as the United States, as well as in countries with heavy migrant outflow such as Mexico (which has over 16 million citizens in the US who remit over $16 billion yearly to their native land). The Philippines can certainly learn from them. Then, too, our government and the host country, Italy, could approach the problems jointly, e.g., providing a study of Italian prior to departure would certainly help the Pinoy youths adjust.

* * *

A different problem was recently raised by two visitors from the United Kingdom, Charles Kelly and Cynthia Alcantara-Barker. Qualified immigration advisers, who run their own successful practice in London, they recently came here to launch their book, "How 2 Come to the UK—To Live Work Study or Visit." The book, their latest collaborative effort (they also co-author a column on "Immigration Matters" for several leading British publications), is a comprehensive and easy-to-follow general guide to the many ways one can legally settle in the UK. It includes case studies governed by complex immigration laws, among them those involving work permits, family settlement and entry clearance.

* * *

Their thesis is simple: despite the many opportunities available to those who want to go to the UK, "there are still thousands of Filipinos who land there clueless about where and how to start their new lives, ending up stranded, aimless, helpless and thousands of pounds in debt." They point out that there are legal ways to enter the country, hence, there's no need to go TNT. They are ready to advise Pinoys who want to do so, and only ask that they be candid about their intentions.

I must admit that when our Corito Fiel invited me to their press luncheon, I had ambivalent feelings for why should I endorse a book that encourages emigration? But after Barker, a native of San Pablo City, Laguna, who is herself a success story as a 17-year immigrant in UK, explained that it teaches Filipinos to go legit, I told myself going abroad is a fact of our national life, so we might as well learn to do it the right and dignified way.

How do we value our young people?

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

WHAT A WAY TO BEGIN THE NEW YEAR. EIGHT young people, two of them women, died in a fire in one of the infamous boardinghouses of the University Belt.

Seven of the fatalities were found in a single room, and authorities said they may have failed to respond to their fellow boarders' frantic shouts and banging on the door because they had all passed out after a drinking bout. The eighth victim was found to have been electrocuted in another room.

After every such tragedy, both media and local authorities go on a binge of chest-thumping, bemoaning how dormitories and boardinghouses in both the congested neighborhoods of the "U-belt" area as well as in Diliman, where the biggest campus of the University of the Philippines is located, are really "fire traps" that routinely violate regulations and fire safety codes.

Indeed, this newspaper even quotes a spokesperson of the United Fire Fighters of the Philippines who testified in a Senate hearing in 2001 that "by their looks alone, these are apparently fire traps."

A visit to any of these boardinghouses, especially those that shelter bed-spacers, will immediately show how congested, cramped and dangerous such places are. Young people—the majority of them youths from the provinces living in Manila to study or work—are crowded into small rooms, in triple- or even quadruple-bunks, with little ventilation and scarce room for privacy. Dozens of boarders must jostle for time and space —and even a meager water supply—in shared bathrooms.

Such a setting seems the ideal breeding ground for illness and infections, not to mention vices and unplanned, unprotected sex. It's a wonder the young people cooped up in such confines ever find time or opportunity to study!

* * *

I'M SURE the parents of these young adults—including those of the eight who died in the fire—sent off their children with only the best of intentions and the highest of hopes. It is not an easy thing, in the context of Philippine culture and the tight relations maintained among kinfolk, to let one's child go off alone to the city, there to lead a life isolated from the comforts of home, the familiarity of the neighborhood, and the counsel of elders. But parents do this every year mainly because the children, the brightest and bravest of their generation in their locales, bring with them the promise of a brighter future and the possibility of freeing their families from the trap of poverty.

So the young people come to the city burdened not just with the need to adjust to a new, frightening environment, but also with a "mission" to fulfill their families' often-outsized hopes and expectations. Little do they or their parents realize that they will be placed in a setting that not only makes it difficult, if not impossible, for them to live up to their responsibilities, but may also lead them down different, unexpected and unplanned paths.

Dying in a fire that engulfs their rattletrap dwellings is just one of many risks they face in the years they will spend battling the demons of the city.

* * *

MANY years ago—decades ago, in fact—there was a news item that the Manila police department was going to deploy more officers in the U-Belt area mainly to guard against student protesters and "subversives" infiltrating campuses.

At this time (and to this day, I bet), what worried students in the Sampaloc-Morayta-C.M. Recto area—the triangle comprising U-Belt—were not lightning rallies or underground organizations, but rather petty crimes, rising public transport costs, costly student meals and, yes, run-down fire traps posing as dorms and boardinghouses.

In my day as a student on the fringes of U-Belt, admittedly a long time ago, stories abounded of the perils we student commuters faced. Particularly memorable is that of the female student who was accosted by a snatcher in the dark sidewalk along Forbes and had her necklace ripped from around her neck. The girl started to hurry away but was rudely yanked back by the criminal, who forced the necklace down her throat apparently in anger because the necklace was a "fake."

Judging from stories my nephews and nieces and young friends tell me, criminality in the U-Belt area, as well as in Diliman where other learning institutions are concentrated, has in fact escalated. Only these days, the targets of petty criminals are no longer jewelry or purses, but cell phones and ATM cards.

* * *

WE CLAIM to put a premium on the welfare of young people, proclaiming them to be the hope of the nation, the future of our race.

And yet, as the deaths of eight boarders in Sampaloc tell us, as well as the tales that abound about how young people are routinely preyed upon, assaulted, exploited and suspected of wrongdoing, it seems the rhetoric is not supported by concrete action or responsive policies.

If local and national authorities were truly concerned about the welfare of students in U-Belt, for instance, then they should have done something long ago about the boardinghouses and dorms. And we're not talking only about fire regulations and fire safety—such as having fire escapes, sprinklers and fire extinguishers—but also about basic structural safety and even just rudimentary sanitation.

In other countries, governments, recognizing that investing in the youth today will pay dividends in the country's improved socio-economic prospects, pour money not just into college and post-graduate scholarships, but also into building quality facilities that would allow the students to realize their full potential.

In contrast, are we not letting our "best and brightest" go to waste, destroying their future even before they have a chance to fulfill it?

Of the old nobility

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

JESUIT FRIAR FRANCISCO PASTELLS CONSIDERED the town of Dapitan the jewel in the crown of that island, because even in the distant past, it was most respected because of the might of its rulers and, during his ministry, because of their Christianity. Before the conquest there were many datus with their own territories, but later Dapitan became united under the crown and the cross.

Its ancestry was Boholano since in olden times its leaders occupied the strait between that island and Panglao, which was dry during low tide though at high tide, a galley could sail through. At one time, the future Dapitanos occupied both riversides and the entire island of Panglao. In the 17th century, you could still see wooden columns standing many feet below the waters, honorific memorials to the place that so gloriously once housed these people but by then were veritable ruins of the noble buildings they once supported.

What happened was that the king of Terrenate had sent an envoy to the most war-like and powerful of the datus, the brothers Dailisan and Pagbuaya. The ambassador unfortunately dallied with one of the concubines and he was summarily punished with insults and cruel demonstrations of disrespect, ending with the cutting of his nose and ears as well as those of his staff.

When they returned to Terrenate, the king was furious. He armed 20 *joangas* (war ships) but the general, doubtful of the outcome of a battle and certain of the bravery of his enemy, used a ruse by which he was assured a deceitful victory.

He ordered his ships to file by and told the crew to pretend to be merchants with assurances of friendship. Believing that the Terrenates were merely trying to sell their goods, the subjects of Dailisan and Pagbuaya lost their caution and responded with trust. The Terrenate general then gathered his armada and attacked. Caught by surprise even if their army had weapons obtained from trade with the Portuguese (these had not been maintained), they succumbed to the superior number of the invaders. The terrifying effects were horrible primarily because of the damage to the spirit of the people. Dailisan died in the fray, leaving his brother Pagbuaya as the sole ruler.

Realizing that the Terrenates would not rest until they achieved their total destruction, Pagbuaya decided to search for a safer habitat which was not so open to the *joangas* of their enemy and could be defended with more ease. Believing that the site had proven unlucky for them and fortune had demonstrated her enmity, they left following the custom that the house where a ruler had died be abandoned by his people and remain unoccupied awaiting its ruin.

A thousand families followed Pagbuaya not counting unmarried men. In Bohol, it was the law to give a dowry before one could marry or, more accurately, buy a wife. But there were many whose poverty prevented them from marrying. Among these were the slaves of the prince who numbered more than 500. The fugitives left their home on the shores of the strait up to the coast of Baclayon and took refuge in the area of the Loboc River where their names were preserved for generations in a few families of their lineage who were left behind after the next exodus.

Not finding hills by the riverside, feeling imprisoned by the solitary mountains and deprived of the sea, Pagbuaya again decided to leave. He and his followers migrated to the island of Mindanao, 15 leagues from their old home.

They had not settled for long in their new site before causing concern among the rulers of surrounding areas and the king of the grandiose island of Borneo. The latter sent an ambassador with two *joangas*, but wary of what had befallen them previously, the Dapitanos were set to reject his overture of friendship. While the ambassador awaited their decision, they saw in the horizon the ships of Magellan and his squadron.

In time, Pagbuaya was converted and his son Manooc followed the faith of his father and, wishing to become a Christian, aided the Spaniards in their first conquest of the islands, primarily the conquest of Manila and Camarines, bringing his soldiers with him and many subjects from tribes under him.

This prince was the first in the roster of those converted to the faith carrying the name of the king on his standard and calling himself Don Pedro Manuel Manooc. He went on to accomplish great exploits: aside from his services in Manila and Camarines, he went into combat against the Moros of Mindanao and Jolo ,attacking them in their own houses on one occasion. He also fought the fierce Caragas who were then the terror of the islands. He subdued the town of Bayug in Mindanao.

It was this prince, the father of Doña Maria Uray, who was, for Pastells, a living model of the southern tribes by virtue of his Christianity. Before he died, he requested that he be buried in the city of Cebu, instructing in his last will and testament that his bones be brought to the cathedral. (Simply out of curiosity, it would be interesting to know whether the poor man's wishes were carried out. If so, does he lie in peace in the cathedral of that southern city?)

* * *

Comments at bambiharper@yahoo.com

Review

YOUNG BLOOD

Cindy T. Hisona

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I'VE BEEN SEATED HERE IN FRONT OF MY COMPUTER for almost an hour now. I'm trying to figure out what I am going to do to fight my boredom while I wait for the sun to rise. Life has been like this since October 2004, the month that followed that gruesome bar examination.

I was one of the hopefuls in the September 2004 bar exams. I had resigned from work as early as November the year before to concentrate on my review and make better preparations for the bar. I had been a working student, who struggled my way through law school. After graduation, I flew to Manila with high hopes for my review classes at San Beda College.

Life there was totally different from what I was accustomed to in the province. It was not my first time to set foot in the big city though. I had been there twice before, but only for a few weeks. I had to make so many adjustments in my lifestyle when I was there, I would say.

I, along with a few former classmates from Silliman University, rented an apartelle near San Beda, fronting the Chino Roces Bridge. We were all witnesses to the shouting and burning of placards by militant groups, who marched there almost every day to air their grievances before the people in Malacañang. It was much easier then to memorize their jingles than articles of the Civil Code.

During our stay, never did we have a dull moment. I can still vividly remember the night when a fire gutted a house near Aguila Street. And every time I think about what I did, it brings a smile to my face.

We were all asleep and our sweet dreams were broken by the loud alarms from fire trucks. And andrenalin rush prompted me to jump off my bed. And since I didn't have wings, I almost broke both of my legs and more. It's not that we don't have fire trucks in our province. It's just because we are not used to hearing so many fire trucks responding to a fire.

From that time on, I would hear fire trucks almost every night but it did not rouse me from my sleep anymore. I quickly got used to their sounds.

One thing that added color to my stay in Mendiola was the Light Rail Transit. It served as my alarm clock in the mornings. The screeching sound it made on the rails and the blowing of its horns were more effective than a thousand alarm clocks. The LRT was the first thing I would see from my window every time I woke up up.

And then there was Centro Escolar University. What a wonderful sight it was to me. It was a constant reminder that I was in the big city, far from home.

It was also while reviewing for the bar that I learned to live on a tight budget, thanks to Adelaine. I haven't met a person as *kuripot* as my friend Adz. If we were being frugal it was not because our parents did not give us enough to buy decent meals, but because we were terribly afraid that we might starve if we didn't spend our money wisely. So when we bought our breakfast, Adz and I would divide it in two, keeping half of it for lunch. There were times when our breakfast ended up as our lunch and dinner, too. Put yourself in our shoes, and I assure your that in month's time, you will be as skinny as your favorite model.

Who can forget the handsome guys in San Beda? It was like raining men every day for Ate Ritchie, my room mate with an Adam's apple.

Visiting the churches around the University Belt became part of our lives during the review. Funny how we become instant devotees when we need something from the Lord. Even Our Lady of Manaoag in faraway Pangasinan and the convent of the Pink Sisters in Baguio were visited by some of our fellow examinees.

Now looking around the peaceful surroundings in our place brings back memories of the people on Recto Avenue, who make the street their homes. The first time I walked down that avenue, my instinct told me to walk faster or, better yet, to run. Some people were openly sniffing rugby, children included, maybe to forget the cravings of their stomachs.

I may have not made it as a lawyer on my first try, but the rich experiences I had during the review taught me many lessons in life. The friends I came to know are blessings enough for me to be thankful about. The family of Manong Vicente, the caretaker of the building, welcomed and treated us with kindness. They showed me that being happy has nothing to do with having material things.

My six-month stay in Manila exposed me to the different struggles of the people I met there, making me appreciate more the blessings I enjoy now. Failing the bar is not the end of my dreams, I always tell myself. From that sad experience, I learned that when you want something badly, you have to strive hard and pray hard. I did the best I could, but the Lord did not grant what I wanted that time. Maybe He's got some other things in store for me or it's not the perfect time yet.

Cindy T. Hisona, 29, finished law at Silliman University in Dumaguete City and now works for the city government of Bayawan, Oriental Negros.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

THEY SAID

Healthy CTPL

"We want to see a healthy competition and not a monopoly."

—Finance Secretary Margarito Teves on plans of the Government Service Insurance System to corner the nation's comprehensive third-party liability policies for vehicle owners

Rewarding thoughts

"To see one's byline can be affirming enough but to shape public opinion is more rewarding."

—Fr. Cyrain Cabueñas, one of INQUIRER'S provincial correspondents

Art of sharing

"What else is an artist's talent for if you don't share it?"

—Artist Jess Abrera, creator of INQUIRER'S official mascot Guyito, on teaching art for free to displaced children of city dwellers in Antipolo and Taguig

The INQUIRER is a member of the
PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

Congressmen will impeach Comelec commissioners?

LAST YEAR, THE SUPREME COURT NULLIFIED the Commission On Elections' P1.24-billion contract with Mega Pacific for the purchase of counting machines, citing irregularities in the bidding process. The Supreme Court also urged the Comelec and the Office of the Solicitor General to recover the more than P1 billion (actually, P1.05 billion, according to the Senate blue ribbon committee) paid to the "winning" bidder.

In the ongoing budget hearing, the Comelec is asking for P10 billion, a 900-percent increase from last year. In the face of the Comelec's effrontery, the senators have asked Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos and all other Comelec officials involved in the anomalous bidding and purchase of the counting machines to resign. However, because they are makers of a constitutional body, impeachment is the only way out for them.

In a rare show of unity, both houses of Congress should join hands for the impeachment of the Comelec officials. The House should initiate the impeachment process. Former commissioners of the Comelec who have had a hand in the questionable bidding and purchase should be charged in court.

Are members of Congress willing to go this far?

—APOLONIO G. RAMOS,
42 Mindanao St.,
Marikina City

Clarification of 'complication'

IN THE BANNER STORY OF PDI, DEC. 18, 2005, (Gov't to Meralco: Pay up) reference was made to the plunder case I filed with the Ombudsman against the National Power Corporation and Meralco as a "complication" in the collection of Meralco's contractual debts.

Lest INQUIRER readers are misled by that unfortunate characterization of the plunder case, allow me to make the following clarifications:

1. I am for the "immediate collection of the full value of the 10-year contract, which is about P44.2 billion. Napocor's selling rate at that time, as affirmed in ERC case No.2001-646/2001-900, was P2.46 per kWh.

2. The amount, the penalty for Meralco's refusal to perform a contractual obligation, should be collected from the parties who benefited from it—in this case, from the Meralco Lopez-owned IPPs, whose electricity was used (instead of Napocor power), despite its being more expensive, at P4.21 per kWh, versus Napocor's at P2.46 per kWh.

3. Napocor's failure to enforce the 10-year contract against Meralco and protect the market for its own IPPs (to which it was contractually obligated), thus leading to the notorious Purchased Power Adjustments (PPAs), amounts to criminal neglect under the anti-graft laws.

4. To the extent that Meralco, its shareholders and the Lopez-owned IPPs benefited from Napocor's failure and neglect, we think they, too, are liable under the anti-graft laws.

With this clarification, we hope it will be clear to Meralco customers that the case we filed with the Ombudsman is meant to protect them from having to pay for Meralco's violations of its contract with Napocor; and to make sure that Napocor's PPA is reduced by its full recovery of foregone market opportunities.

—GUALBERTO J. DELA LLANA,
Lot 18, Blk 21 Lapu Lapu St.,
New Capitol Estate I,
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

Religious duplicity

LITO DAVID'S CONCERN ABOUT giving a satisfactory answer to his daughter who asked about honesty and cheating (PDI, 12/17/05) is precisely the reason why the bishops of the Philippines should lend a hand in asking Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to resign. But they chose to speak from both sides of the mouth when they should speak plainly and clearly and without duplicity—the way Nathanael spoke and Jesus named him Bartolomew, son of learning.

Nathaniel spoke about the good that can come out of Galilee. So should the bishops—unless they really could not see through the eyes of 80 percent of the Filipino people that GMA cheated, not just through former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano and the National Movement for Free Elections, but also with the stench of the overpriced bottled fertilizers and the tampered certificate of canvass and election returns.

What else do bishops need for them to be convinced and to come right out and say: In a Christian democracy, cheating in the elections and vote-buying are not an option. Should the President be subject to standards well-below those that are demanded of Ceasar's wife—beyond reproach, in fact and in appearance?

On morality issues like this, I expect the leaders of my Church to take a stand, regardless of what people say about the separation of Church and State. I do not expect the leaders of my Church to play politics and to exercise what they euphemistically call diplomacy, which in my book is the letter H the Lord accused the scribes and pharisees of and warned us all against.

— AURORA RIEL,
aurora_riel@yahoo.com

Witness to Senate vote on US bases

WITH REFERENCE TO YOUR FRONT-PAGE story titled "Behind closed doors: US bases' fate decided" (PDI, 1/2/06), I wish to state for the record, that it was not the late Sen. Jose W. Diokno who witnessed the vote; in fact, he was deceased by that time; it was former Sen. Lorenzo Tañada, the grand old man of the Nationalist Movement who was at the Senate session hall to witness the vote. I was there, I witnessed him stand and raise his right fist.

Secondly, it was not "behind closed doors" as it was covered live on ABS-CBN. In fact, to this day, there are taped recordings of that historic event which can be reviewed. The Filipino people watched the debate for weeks on national television—from the hearings in a committee of the whole to the nominal vote.

I was chief of staff of Sen. Wigberto Tañada and that gave me a historical opportunity to be part of the whole process. And together with all the staff and Senate personnel who worked behind the scenes, either for or against the bases, the experience will never be forgotten.

In the interest of truth and professional journalism, kindly correct the story.

—CONCEPCION C. ASIS,
former chief of staff
of Sen. Wigberto Tañada

We made the correction on Jan. 3, 2006. Our deep apologies to the family of the great nationalist Lorenzo Tañada.—Ed.

ConCom could have come up with proposals without consulting public

I WAS STRUCK BY THE "WHAT IS Really Immoral" paid advertisement of the Constitutional Consultative Commission (ConCom). (PDI, 1/3/06)

It stated that it is immoral and unacceptable if we do not change the system of governance that, according to the ad, has prevented effective governance. But the ConCom forgot that effective governance does not depend on just the form of government or the laws. To a much greater extent, it depends on whether we have honest or corrupt politicians and citizens.

What proof is there that a parliamentary-federal government run by the same crooked politicians will:

- remove poverty
- reduce inequality
- improve infrastructure
- improve the rule of law
- stop graft and corruption

If bad leaders and corrupt politicians are the major cause of our problems, why deprive the citizens of their right to vote and the right to remove those politicians, thus solve those problems?

Unfortunately, the ConCom failed to study the root cause of our problems as well as to find realistic and effective solutions to those problems. After wasting so much time and money, it gave us a draft constitution and transitory provisions that its members could have come up with, immediately during their first session, without going through the motions of pseudo consultations with the public.

—MANUEL A. ALCUAZ JR.,
Unit 710, Globe Telecom Plaza,
Pioneer Street, Mandaluyong City

Marcelo deserves credit

WHILE I AGREE THAT GLORIA Macapagal-Arroyo's anti-corruption promises are all for show, I just can't agree with Procopio Beltran, who stated in his letter (PDI, 12/27/05) that Simeon Marcelo accomplished nothing significant during his stint as the country's ombudsman.

Though just a speculation, Marcelo is said to have tendered his resignation because of pressure from the Palace concerning the case of my *kababayan*, former Justice Secretary Nani Perez. If the speculation is correct, it only shows that Marcelo has chosen not to compromise his conviction. This is the same conviction that prompted him to rule against another Batangueño, then the president of the Batangas State University who faced various charges of corruption and a known ally and *kumpadre* of another Batangueño in the Palace, who is very close to GMA.

I think Marcelo deserves credit for his anti-corruption efforts.

—CARLITO BISA,
lito_bisa@yahoo.com

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
Tuesday, January 10, 2006

ALL NEW SEASON
THE APPRENTICE
MONDAY 10PM
SEE IT FIRST ON
ABC

ALL NEW SERIES
THE APPRENTICE
Martha Stewart
TUESDAY 10PM
ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5			Winner TV Shopping		World Pool Masters				Sentro	Mumbai Thrillers	ABC Action Movies				Big News	The Apprentice		ALI	
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Little Amy	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Amazing Twins	Motor Garden Season 2	TV Patrol World	Pilipinas Game KNB?	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Only You	Vietnam Rose	Pinoy Big Brother	Bora			Insider
AXN		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 4)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 4)		The 4400		PSI Factor (Season III)		24 (Season 2)		Ripley's Believe It Or Not		Worlds Apart		House		Las Vegas	
Cartoon Network	Johnny Bravo	Dexter's Laboratory	Powerpuff Girls	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Codename: Kids Next Door		The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy		Power Rangers Wild Force	The Gransazers	Battle B-Daman	Machine Robo-Rescue	X-Men Evolution	Samurai Jack	Justice League	Static Shock	Power Rangers Wild Force	The Gransazers
Cinema One		Insiang				Esperanza The Movie				Wala Ka Ng Puwang Sa Mundo				Astig				Anak	
Cinemax	Beethoven			Necessary Roughness				Demolition Man				Secret Window			Three Way (9:35 PM)			Final Destination 2 (11:05PM)	
CNN				Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International		World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport
Discovery Channel		Deadliest Season In The World		Rides		Best Of Discovery 2005				Wild Discovery		Hour Asia		Japan At War		Zero Hour		Crime Stories	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Lilo & Stitch	Sabrina The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	Phil Of The Future	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Ranger	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN						Pool/ Snooker Mosconi Cup 2004		Boxing Series Friday Night Fights				Sportscenter Asia	World Tenpin Masters '05		Pool/ Snooker Mosconi Cup 2004		Pro Billiards '05 Sims. Billiards Championships		Sportscenter Asia
ETC		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	Change of Heart	Elimidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Knock First	Ambush Makeover	Seinfeld	What I Like About You	One Tree Hill 2		The O.C. 2		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
EWTN	Catholic Social Teaching	Angelus (3:15 PM)	ABCatholic	Angel Force	Angels Of God	Rosary With Mother Angelica	The Gospel Of John	EWTN Gallery	Lord, Have Mercy	The Journey Home Encore		Council Of Faith	Good Or Evil, Who Decides?	Daily Mass (SAP) Live		Angelus (10:15PM)	Rome Reports	Web Of Faith	
Fox News		Hannity & Colmes		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live			
GMA 7	Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako	Now and Forever	Date With Tiffany		Dragonball Z	Slam Dunk	Frog Prince	24 Oras		Extra Challenge	Sugo	Etheria	Starstruck 3	Jewel In The Palace		Bahay Mo Ba 'To?			Saksi
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched IV	McLeod's Daughters IV		Out Of The Woods			Who's The Boss? II	Bewitched IV	The Nanny	Strong Medicine		Judging Amy		Pinsong			Family Law III (10:35PM)		Strong Medicine
HBO			Beverly Hills Ninja			True Believer				The Devil's Own				Rome Ep 08: Caesarion		Rome Ep 09: Utica		The Bonfires Of The Vanities	
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Pangarap Kong Jackpot		Home Shopping Network		ME-TV					IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	The Late Show David Letterman		Raw				Batman	Just For Laughs (Gags)	Mad TV		That 70s Show	Arrested Development	The Late Show David Letterman		The Late Show David Letterman	Comedy Central Presents	South Park	The Man Show
Lifestyle Network	Secret Gardens	The Fix	Mission Organization	Carol Duvall	Molto Mario	Hot Off The Grill	Good Eats	Extreme Cuisine	Unwrapped	Passion For Dessert	Second Look		Look For Less	Life & Style		Who's Wedding Is It Anyway?		Road & Track	Back To Basics
MTV Philippines	MTV Screen	Spring Break	Dyes		Punk'D	Pop Inc		MTV Hits				MTV Hits	Get Spotted	TRL		Advance Warning	Pimp My Ride	MTV Hits	VH1 Video Collections
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYX Versions	MYX Firsts	Star MYX	MYXILOG	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Top Of The Pops	Radio MYX	MYX News	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX
National Geographic		Seconds From Disaster		Is It Real?		Air Crash Investigation		Top 5		Wow!		About Asia		Microkillers Week		Seconds From Disaster		Is It Real?	
NBN		Value Vision		New Life TV Shopping		Teledyaryo	Diyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sila?	Tinig ng Bayan (Live)				Teledyaryo				Pilipinas Ngayon Na!		Bantay OCW With Susan K	
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues	Rugrats	Hey Arnold!	My Life As A Teenage Robot	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents		All That	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	Drake & Josh	The Fairly Odd Parents	All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	Chalkzone	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	The Brothers Garcia
PBO			Juan Tamad Junior				Liwanag Sa Kabila Ng Dilim		Madaling Mamatay, Mahirap Mabuhay				Abandonada				Blondie		
Qtv		Bodyguard	Striker Hungry Heart	The Prince Of Tennis	MMS (My Music Station)		Moms		Star	Holder	All In	Laugh To Laugh: Ang Kulit	My Guardian Baby		News On Q	Sana'y Muling Makapiling		Groupee TV	
RPN 9	TV Shopping		Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	As Told By Ginger	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Real Gilligan's Island		The Cut		Paradise Hotel		Newswatch Now	Tuesday Night Treat		
SBN 21				New Life TV Shopping				Winner TV Shopping				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Sony Bmg Video			
Solar Sports		IBF China Open Finals Mixed Doubles			Arthur Gander Memorial Gymnastics					Swatch FIVB Acapulco Men's Finals		Sportsdesk	NBA Jam	NBA GAme Supersonics @ 76ers					NBA Inside Stuff
Sports Plus		PGA Tour Year In Review 2005		Inside the PGA	Golf Today	ACC Basketball Boston College @ Maryland				World Game		Ultimate Fighting Championship				Party Poker.com World Open 2005			
Star Movies			Anything Else			Death Wish V (5:15 PM)				Stigmata (8:55 PM)				Dude Where's My Car			Garfield The Movie		Opening Night
Star World	Becker	The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Whose Line Is It Anyway?	Angel		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Friends	Charmed (Series 8)		The O.C./2006 63rd Golden Globe Awards		Tru Calling/ North Shore		Friends	Charmed Series 8/2006 63rd Golden Globe Awards
Studio 23		Astroboy						Get Backers	Spirits	Wazzup Wazzup	Andromeda		Smallville (8:20 PM)	Point Pleasant (9:10 PM)		News Central	Oprah		Just Shoot Me

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Ang inyong tagapaghatid ng ulat-pangmulat
alas-10 ng gabi na! Tuwing Huwebes
Ating kabalitaan
Cheri Mercado
Dito lang sa ABC
INQ TV

NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle, 10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City ▪ Tel. No. (074)443-9255 ▪ Fax No. (074)443-8971 ▪ E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph
SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU 23 Aurora St., Old Albay District, Legazpi City ▪ Tel. No. (052) 820-8402 ▪ Fax No. (052) 820-1274 ▪ E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

Across the NATION

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph
Text us your feedback: inquirer atn name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

VISAYAS BUREAU c/o Cebu Daily News, 18-15 Escario St., Cebu City ▪ Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349 ▪ Fax No. (032) 232-9938 ▪ E-mail: inq_cebu@inquirer.com.ph
MINDANAO BUREAU FEP Printing Corp. Bldg., Ma-a Road, Davao City ▪ Tel. No. (082)244-1770 to 71 ▪ Fax No. (082)244-1771 ▪ E-mail: inq_davao@inquirer.com.ph

Arrests confirm 'jueteng' return

CAMP VICENTE LIM, LAGUNA—An anti-illegal gambling unit of the Philippine National Police (PNP) from Camp Crame arrested 46 persons on board four vehicles after they allegedly held an illegal numbers game draw inside a subdivision in General Trias, Cavite late Sunday.

The arrest was made after a top official of the Cavite police flatly denied the supposed resurgence of "jueteng" as reported by Vice Gov. Johnvic Remulla.

Chief Supt. Jesus Verzosa, PNP Calabarzon director, said members of the Anti-Illegal Gambling Special Operations Task Force arrested the suspects after the winning jueteng combinations were drawn at Holiday Homes Subdivision at about 5:30 p.m.

Verzosa said the suspects were already on board three passenger vehicles and a Hyundai van when they were apprehended.

Most of the arrested individuals were *cobradores* (bet collectors) from Cavite, he said.

NATION
'Jueteng' back in Batangas

A POLICEMAN holds a copy of an INQUIRER issue on "jueteng" following raids in Cavite.
JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Recovered from them were P20,000 in bets, several pieces of *lastillas* and other paraphernalia used in jueteng.

The raid in Cavite prompted Verzosa to order an immediate investigation of the alleged proliferation of jueteng in other areas in the region like Laguna and Batangas.

He said they would look into reports that some police officials condoned the operations of jueteng in Cavite.

"We will not tolerate our men who are remiss in their job against jueteng. I will not allow the return of this illegal activity in the region," Verzosa told the INQUIRER.

Comeback

Remulla said the arrests only showed that the underground lottery had indeed made a comeback in his province.

"The arrests proved that 'jueteng is again flourishing in Cavite. Unfortunately, some local officials turned a blind eye on the issue," he said in a mobile phone interview.

It was Remulla who earlier told the INQUIRER that jueteng had returned in Cavite during the holiday season.

Senior Supt. Benjardi Mantele, Cavite police director, strongly belied Remulla's claims but said he would order a probe into the allegations.

Remulla identified a certain Gani Kupkupin as the maintainer of jueteng in at least five Cavite towns.

He, however, declined to give the names of unscrupulous local officials who tolerated and benefited from jueteng.

Verzosa said he had already ordered the relief of Chief Insp. Conrado Gongon, General Trias police chief, based on the recommendation of PNP chief Director General Arturo Lomibao for his failure to stop jueteng operations in his jurisdiction.

He said he likewise ordered Mantele to appoint an officer in charge as replacement for Gongon.

One-strike policy

Gongon was the fifth casualty of the PNP's "one-strike policy" against jueteng in Calabarzon.

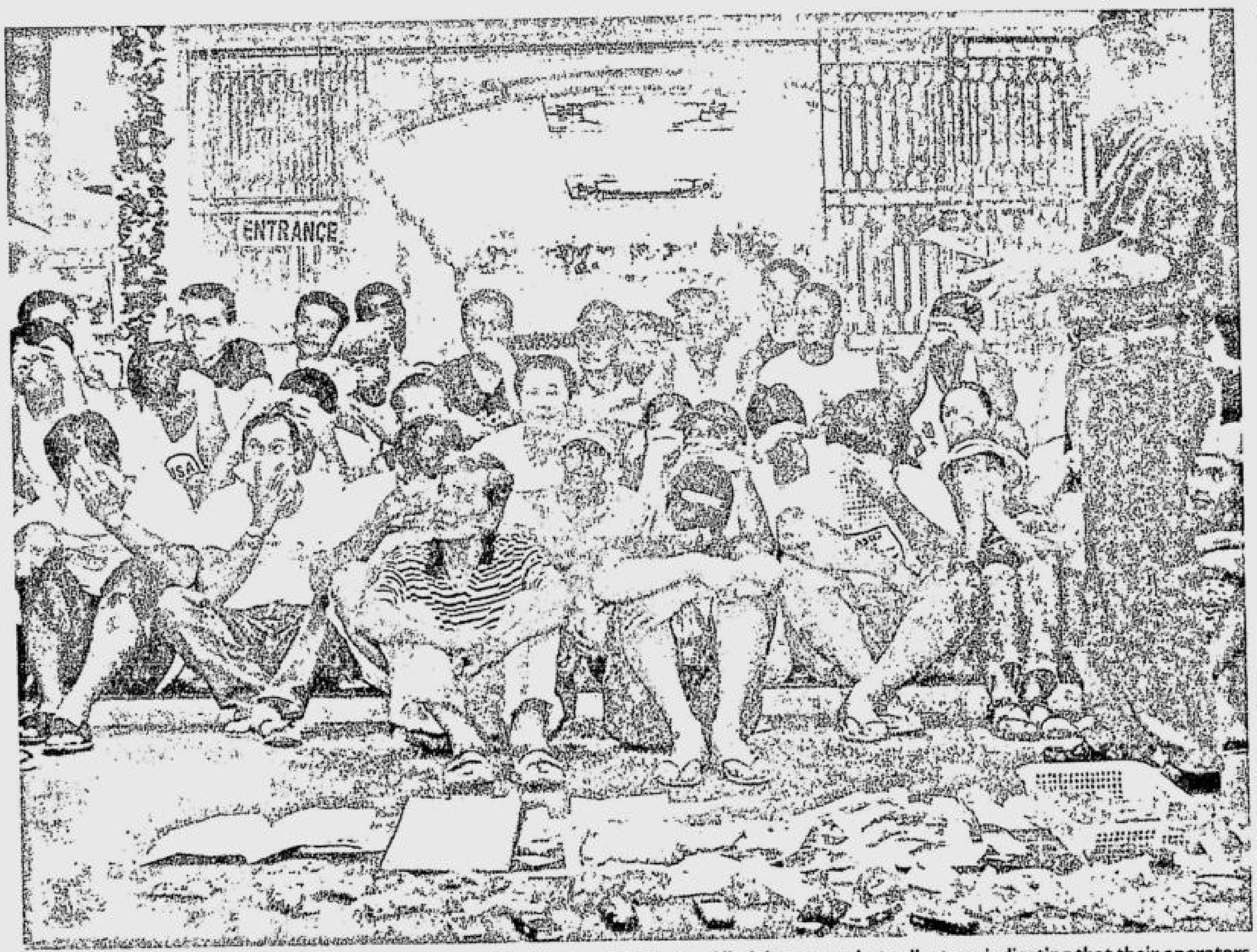
According to the policy, town police chiefs will be sacked whenever members of the anti-illegal gambling unit are able to prove that jueteng exists in their respective areas.

Five months ago, the police chiefs in Pagbilao, Quezon and Padre Garcia, Batangas were relieved after anti-gambling agents conducted successful anti-jueteng raids in the municipalities.

One of those arrested was Ricky Cortez who confessed that he was the table manager of jueteng in the area.

He admitted in a television interview that they revived the underground lottery in Cavite last Jan. 2.

Cortez, however, said what they had was not an organized, full-blown jueteng operation as alleged by Remulla but a small-scale, guerrilla-type one. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



POLICE gather some of the 46 men who were arrested for "jueteng" in Cavite. All of them were bet collectors, indicating that their operators and masterminds are still at large.
JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Going organic seen way to compete with imported veggies

By Donna Demetillo
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—ORGANIC FARMING is the way to go if local farmers are to compete with the rush of imported produce into the country brought about by the World Trade Organization, according to Dr. Rogelio Colting, president of the Benguet State University (BSU) here.

Colting said there is a growing market for organically grown fruits and vegetables with more and more people becoming conscious of their health.

In fact, because of the high demand for organic food and insufficient supply, organic products rake in more income for a handful of organic farmers.

"In 1983, Baguio cabbages were sold at P35 per kilo in Davao while organic cabbages were sold at P65," Franco Bawang, BSU vice president, said.

Colting said: "Organic farming could save the vegetable industry in the Cordillera. There is a market. People are becoming conscious of what they are eating. But we lack farmers who are willing to go organic."

BSU will hold the first Cordillera organic agriculture Congress on Jan. 13-14 as part of the campaign to convince more farmers to shift from conventional farming to organic farming.

BSU will also launch its organic university program, a consolidation of university-wide efforts towards organic farming, on Jan. 9.

The program is a response to the global concern on environmental degradation and food contamination caused by harmful chemicals.

It aims to establish ecologically safe concepts through organic principles and practices.

To demonstrate the concept of an organic university, seven healing gardens will also be opened on Jan. 9 at the BSU compound here.

"This is a group of small gardens—of flowers, vegetables, salad crops, herbs, fruits, cactus, and a pond where people can draw positive energy and experience some kind of healing," said Marlene Atinyao, dean of the College of Agriculture and chair of the Task Force on Organic University.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

OUTDOOR CLUB
The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.'s Outdoor Club (POC) made its way to Morong, Bataan to distribute Christmas gifts to 77 Aeta families. Led by POC head Jesus Casabar, the mountaineering group distributed used clothes, shoes, candles and other goodies to the tribal people.

Bohol town prepares for burial of Filipina soldier slain in Iraq

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—SGT. MYLA MARAVILLOSA IS coming home to her hometown in Inabanga, Bohol on Wednesday but it will not be a happy reunion.

Her mother, Estelita, with local and school officials would be at the airport in the capital city of Tagbilaran to welcome her back.

The United States Army will bring her remains so she could be buried next to the grave of her grandfather in Barangay U-og in Inabanga town.

Inabanga Mayor Josephine Socorro Jumamoy said Estelita and her sisters Lorie Lumayag and Bernarda Lumayag-Rodriguez came home from Hawaii last Sunday, three days ahead the scheduled arrival of Myla.

She would fetch her daughter at the Tagbilaran airport, which would be brought in at about 11 a.m. by the US Army plane from the military base in Delaware.

"We, the town and provincial officials headed by Gov. Erico Aumentado will be there at the airport to fetch her remains," she added.

Officials of U-og Elementary Schools and Holy Spirit School where Myla completed her elementary and high school education, would also receive her at the airport.

The mayor was not sure if the US plane would make a stopover in Manila or go directly to Tagbilaran from a military base in Delaware.

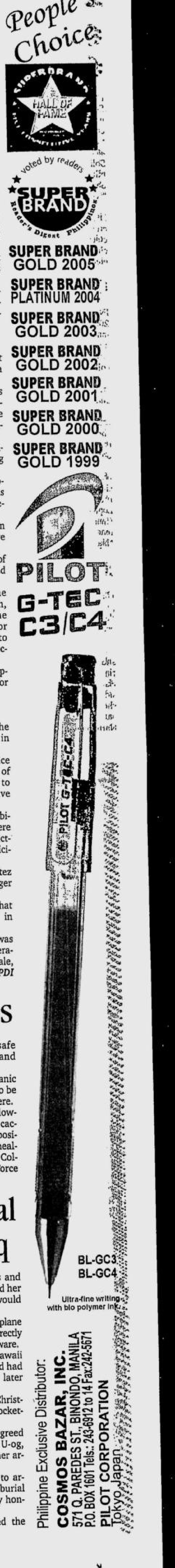
Myla and her mother had moved to Hawaii in the 1990s when Myla was only 16 and had just graduated from high school. She later went to serve in the US military.

An only child, Myla was killed on Christmas Eve when her Humvee was hit by rocket-propelled grenades in Iraq.

Jumamoy said Myla's relatives had agreed to bury her at the barangay cemetery in U-og, Inabanga, on Jan. 19, nine days after her arrival on Wednesday.

US military officials were expected to arrive in Inabanga next week for Myla's burial where she would be given full military honors, said the mayor.

Aumentado said they had prepared the burial site of Maravillosa.



SUPER BRAND GOLD 2005
SUPER BRAND PLATINUM 2004
SUPER BRAND GOLD 2003
SUPER BRAND GOLD 2002
SUPER BRAND GOLD 2001
SUPER BRAND GOLD 2000
SUPER BRAND GOLD 1999

PILOT
G-TEC
C3/C4

BL-GC3
BL-GC4

Ultra-fine writing with bio polymer ink

Philippine Exclusive Distributor:
COSMOS BAZAR, INC.
571 Q. PAREDES ST., BINONDO, MANILA
P.O. BOX 1601 Tels.: 243-6912 to 14 Fax:242-5671
PILOT CORPORATION
Tokyo Japan

Trader, wife, daughter found dead in Iloilo home

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—AN ILONGGO businessman, his wife and their 6-year-old daughter was found stabbed dead inside their house at dawn yesterday.

Francisco "Bobby" Tan suffered multiple stab wounds in the chest when he was found sprawling in the master bedroom on the second floor of their residence along M.H. del Pilar Street in Molo District.

Bodies

The body of his wife Cynthia Marie Zayco-Tan was found in an adjacent bedroom and their daughter Kathy, near the door of the master bedroom. Both also had stab wounds in the chest.

Tan is owner of Crown Agro Chemical, which sells pesticides, fertilizers, and other agricultural inputs. Cynthia belongs to the prominent Zayco clan in Negros Occidental and is the niece of the province's vice governor, Izidro Zayco.

Unharmed

The couple's five other children and Tan's aunt, businesswoman Conchita Tan, were unharmed.

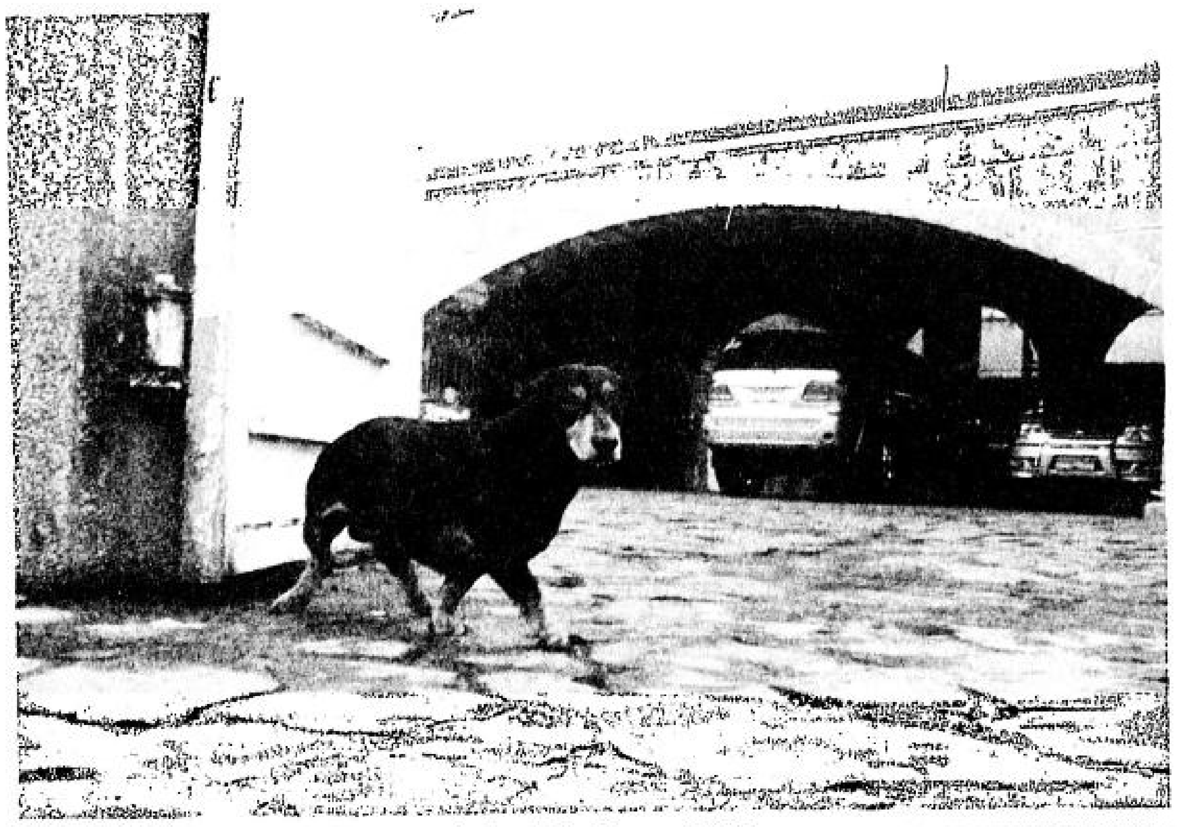
The victims' remains were discovered by Tan's sons from a previous marriage Archie, 23, and John Michael, 19, said Chief Supt. Doroteo Reyes II, Western Visayas police director, quoting the statement of Tan's sons.

Archie and John Michael told investigators they sneaked out around midnight yesterday for a night out by jumping over the concrete fence.

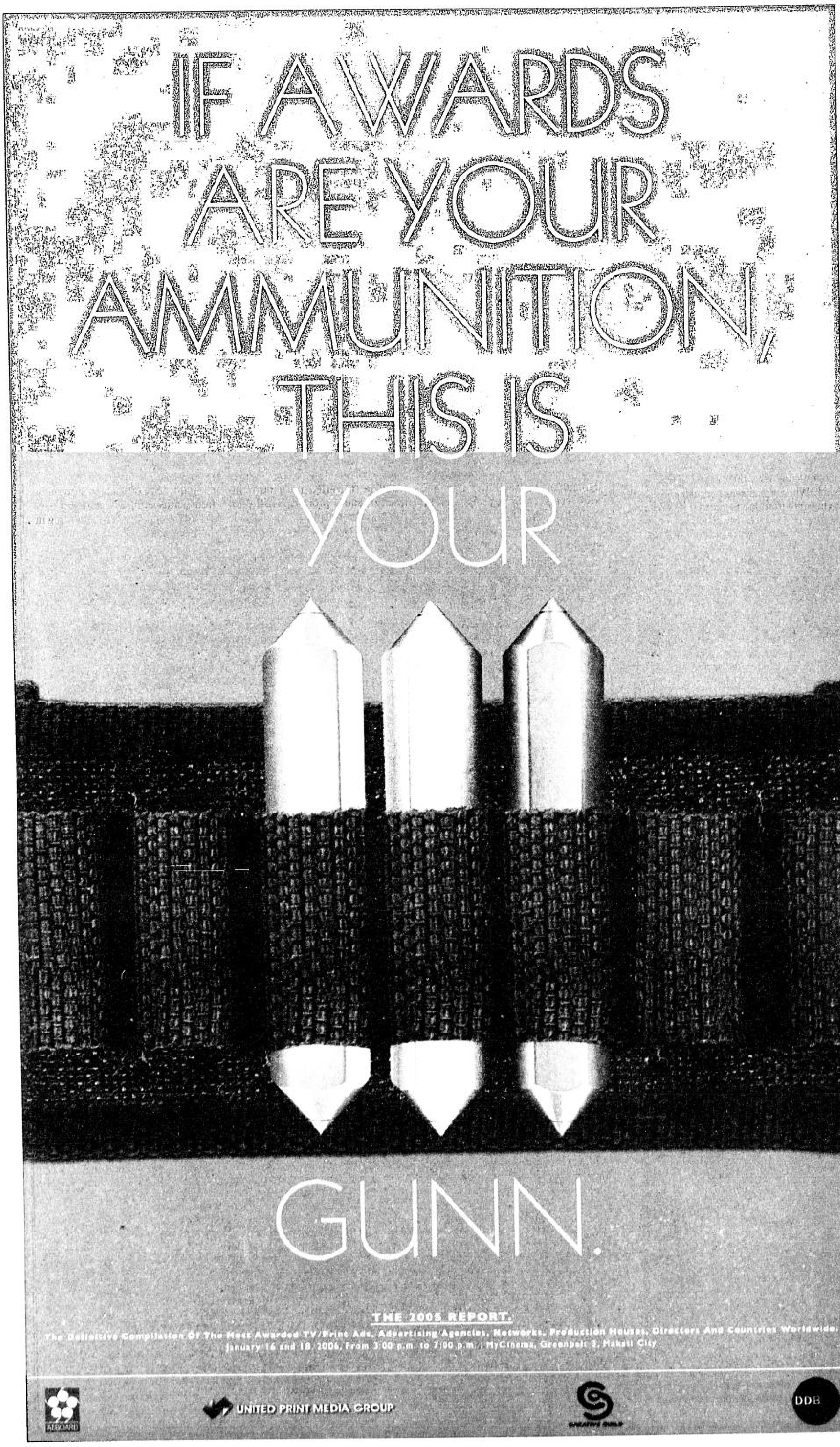
Discovery

They said they returned around 3 a.m. and found the remains of the victims when they returned to their rooms.

They immediately called the other members of the household who helped bring the victims to the hospital.



ONE OF the pet dogs of the Tans roams in the victims' home in Iloilo. ARNOLD ALMACEN/PDI VISAYAS BUREAU



THE 2005 REPORT.

The Definitive Compilation Of The Most Awarded TV/Print Ads, Advertising Agencies, Networks, Production Houses, Directors And Countries Worldwide.
January 16 and 18, 2006, From 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.; MyCinema, Greenbelt 3, Makati City

Tanauan folk hold vigil to back mayor

TANAUAN CITY—MORE THAN 700 SUPPORTERS of embattled Mayor Alfredo Corona trooped to the City Hall grounds here late Sunday night and held a vigil in anticipation of a supposed order of the Commission on Elections (Comelec) to vacate his post in favor of the incumbent mayor's rival in the last elections.

The protesters, led by the Kalipunan ng mga Tanaueño Para sa Tunay na Tinig ng Tao (Katapat), accused election officials and Sonia Torres-Aquino, Corona's rival, of conniving with each other to reverse the results of the last elections.

Katapat is made up of seven people's organizations with about 5,000 members.

Aurelio Llanto, Katapat chair, assailed the Comelec decision and described it as a farce.

He said they went to the City Hall as news spread that Torres-Aquino would seat as the new Tanauan mayor after the Comelec allegedly issued a writ of execution.

"We are not here to support Mayor Corona but to defend our right to choose and be heard. The people of Tanauan know who really won the elections. We just cannot accept the Comelec's decision (favoring Torres-Aquino)," Llanto said.

The writ would have enforced the Dec. 22, 2005 ruling of the Comelec's second division, which said Torres-Aquino won by 3,102 votes over Corona after a revision of the ballots.

The local election board had Corona winning by 3,741 over Torres-Aquino.

Both ran under the administration party Lakas.

As of 3 p.m. yesterday, at least 400 supporters of Corona were still at the City Hall grounds as if to guard the mayor who stayed at his office the whole day.

Despite the rally, operations at the City Hall remained normal, said administrator Norberto Mendoza.

Corona filed on Friday a motion for voluntary inhibition and the disqualification of Election Commissioner Rufino Javier for his "indecently sudden and anomalously abrupt vote," which favored Torres-Aquino.

Javier had concurred with Commissioner Mehol Sadain's 465-page resolution a day after his appointment to the division on Dec. 20, 2005.

Commissioner Florentino Tuazon issued a separate 110-page dissenting opinion favoring the incumbent mayor.

In his motion, Corona urged the election body to prohibit Javier from further participating in his election case, which is now on appeal.

He noted that it was very obvious that Javier's decision was an uninformed and arbitrary one, and was never based on the merits of the case.

"How can Javier study the almost 600-page decision of the two other commissioners in just barely two days?" Corona said. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Security tight for Asean meet

DAVAO CITY—AUTHORITIES HERE ARE EXPECTED to be more stringent in security measures, following reports of possible terrorism attacks during the week-long Asean Tourism Forum (ATF), which is scheduled to start this week.

"We have identified some personalities whom we suspect to be in the city," said Mayor Rodrigo Duterte during his Sunday TV program.

He said authorities have monitored terrorist elements prowling in the city and are now being hunted.

"There is a specific threat... And we just have to face it," the mayor said.

Duterte said he even ordered the police and military to take "preemptive steps."

Some 2,000 foreign delegates are expected to be in the city for the ATF, a yearly summit of foreign ministers in the Asean with dignitaries and businessmen in tow.

Although the ATF would significantly boost the image of the city as a tourist and business haven, it's been a security nightmare for the authorities.
Dennis Jay Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau

10 suspects in Dacer slay case enter not guilty plea

By Margaux C. Ortiz

TEN SUSPECTS IN THE ABDUCTION and killing of publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver Emmanuel Corbito in November 2000 were arraigned yesterday morning at the Manila Regional Trial Court on double murder charges.

Wearing faded yellow detainee T-shirts and grim expressions on their faces, SPO4 Marino Soberano, SPO3 Mauro Torres, SPO3 Jose Escalante, SPO1 Ruperto Nemeno, and PO2 Thomas Sarmiento Jr. pleaded not guilty to the charges filed against them in the courtroom of Judge Myra Garcia Fernandez.

The five policemen were formerly assigned to the disbanded-Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF).

DACER

The other suspects, Crisostomo Purificacion, Margarito Cueno, Renato Malabanan, Jovencio Malabanan and Rommel Rollan, also pleaded not guilty. The five were former agents of the task force.

Brothers Jimmy and William Lopez, and Alex Diloy, who were among the accused but were later included in the Witness Protection Program, also appeared during the proceedings. Judge Fernandez set the formal preliminary investigation for the case on Feb. 6 and 13.

In a 24-page decision issued on Oct. 10, 2005, the Supreme Court ruled that former Senior Supt. Michael Ray Aquino should be included as a respondent in the killing of Dacer and Corbito.

Aquino, a former PAOCTF official, is detained in the United States on conspiracy charges. He was arrested by the Federal Bureau of Investigation last September.

The high court, however, said Supt. Glenn Dumlao, who had linked Aquino and several others to the crime, should be excluded as an accused.

The decision, penned by Associate Justice Minita Chico Nazario, affirmed a ruling of the Court of Appeals to include Aquino in the charge sheet for the double murder case.

Earlier, the appellate court overturned a Manila Regional Trial Court ruling, which junked the "amended information" of the Department of Justice that sought to include Aquino in the case.

Also charged in the amended information were Senior Supt. Cesar Mancao, Senior Supt. Teofilo Vina, SPO2 Allan Villanueva, SPO4 Benjamin Taladua, SPO1 William Reed, SPO1 Mario Sarmiento, SPO1 Rolando Lacasandile, Chief Insp. Vicente Arnado, Insp. Roberto Langcauon and Digo de Pedro. Langcauon died in jail while Vina was gunned down in Tanza, Cavite, in 2003. The others remain at large.

METROBRIEFS

Street kids' haven

A HAVEN for street children and battered women has been proposed by the Marikina City Council to serve as a temporary shelter as they wait to be reunited with their families. "We want an environment that would be conducive especially for the street children," said Legal Affairs Coordinator Deanna Racquel De Jesus of the Vice Mayor's Office. Based on a city ordinance passed last year, policemen and government officials can take custody of street children and bring them to the City Holding Center. The facility, however, is also a full-scale rehabilitation center for drug dependents and is therefore "no longer an adequate environment for the temporary housing of street children," according to the resolution introduced by Councilor Lea Carlos. But will the city government have enough funds for the proposed project? "This is the right time to tackle this social concern. Passing a resolution urging our city government to undertake this project would be the first step towards the realization of our goal," De Jesus said. *Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

ILLUSTRATION. STEPH BRAVO

Boy recovers from meningo

THE 4-YEAR-OLD boy who was diagnosed with meningococcemia in Marikina City last week is on his way to "full recovery," doctors said. Amang Rodriguez Medical Center (ARMC) Director Ricardo Lustre told the INQUIRER yesterday that the boy's attending doctors at the San Lazaro Hospital had told them the patient could be discharged "probably this week." Lustre advised city residents not to take a fever for granted as this could be a symptom of a more serious illness, like meningococcemia.

Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

Alias 'Palos' nabbed

THE FORMER wife of a suspect accused of attempted murder, who could no longer stomach his criminal activities, alerted police to his presence which led to his arrest yesterday. Arrested was Alexander Guhit, alias "Palos," (slippery) of Dagat-Dagatan, Caloocan City. Guhit had been accused of stabbing several people without any provocation. After each incident, the suspect would disappear. *Nancy C. Carvajal*

QC launches intensive drive vs TB via 'Sagip Baga'

By DJ Yap

MORE THAN 60 YEARS SINCE TUBERCULOSIS claimed the life of President Manuel L. Quezon, the city named after him is still grappling with the killer respiratory disease.

In a bid to control TB by 2015, the Quezon City government yesterday launched "Sagip Baga Quezon City," a nine-year campaign seeking to educate the public about ways to fight the fifth most common cause of death among residents.

It will be an uphill battle. As many as 15,000 Quezon City residents are believed to be afflicted with tuberculosis or TB, with 7,500 new cases reported every year, according to the city health office.

Half of the figure, or about 3,500 cases are highly contagious, said city chief health officer Maria Paz Ugalde, citing figures from the Philippine Coalition Against Tuberculosis.

In turn, a person with a highly contagious case of TB may infect between five and 10 people every year, she added. Quezon, the first Commonwealth president, died of the disease on Aug. 1, 1944.

To help prevent the spread of the deadly disease, Quezon City has teamed up with the Department of Health, the Lung Center of the Philippines, and several public and private organizations, for Sagip Baga, a comprehensive anti-TB program.

At the launching of the program yesterday at City Hall, Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. said that TB remains a big threat to the public, even though there is a mistaken perception that the disease is no longer prevalent.

Although the disease is both preventable and curable, two factors stop infected patients from being cured, Belmonte said.

The first is the stigma attached to the disease, he said. Many people are ashamed to admit they have TB, because they do not want others to start avoiding them, he added.

"They do not consult a doctor, and before long, they will have infected their own children," Belmonte said.

The second factor is the mistaken belief that the disease can be cured by self-medication, Belmonte said.

TB can be cured if patients simply go through the whole treatment regimen and continue medication for about six months, depending on the severity of their condition, the mayor said.

Many people, however, often stop taking their medicine once they begin feeling well, he said. When the disease resurfaces, it will have become immune to normal medication, thus, patients end up spending up to P200,000 for treatment, Belmonte noted.

TB is a chronic infectious disease caused by Mycobacterium tuberculosis, or bacteria that are transmitted through airborne droplets from the cough or sneeze of infected persons. If left untreated, it can lead to a disabling condition and even death.

According to Ugalde, the city health office can only detect and assist less than 1,300 cases, and successfully cure 1,000 from the large pool of TB-infected persons, based on 2004 data.

Reclaimed land brings windfall to Parañaque

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE PARAÑAQUE CITY GOVERNMENT is optimistic that its recent acquisition of a parcel of land from the Public Reclamation Authority (PRA) would give residents a range of investment possibilities and more revenues for its coffers.

The 1.5 has of land was recently accepted by the local government as the PRA's (formerly Public Estates Authority) initial payment for tax liabilities worth more than P737 million from Jan. 1, 2001 to Dec. 31, 2005.

Resolution 331 was approved by the city council last month, ratifying and approving the compromise agreement between the city and PRA represented by its general manager, Teodorico Taguinod, to settle the agency's real property tax arrears by paying in kind. The reclaimed land includes the 5,266 sq.m. Fishermen's Wharf in Barangay La Huerta and the 9,937 sq. m. property across Barangays Baclaran, Tambo and Don Galo.

"This is a major breakthrough for our city," said Mayor Florencio Bernanbe in a statement." I am pleased that through sheer diplomacy, we were able to convince the PRA to settle its taxes, even on a partial basis. I can assure you that these lands will be put to good use."

The mayor assured his constituents that the lands would be converted into revenue-generating areas for residents and the city coffers. Half of Fishermen's Wharf would be converted into a tourist attraction and a profitable fish port, the statement read.

"We will clean and renovate the area and encourage residents to invest in business in the area," Bernabe said. The resolution, meanwhile, said that the remaining tax arrears worth P436 million would be paid in kind after the city and PRA have identified and agreed on the properties and the corresponding value.

The attempt to collect taxes from the PRA was a controversial issue during former Mayor Joey Marquez's term. At that time, the city government threatened to confiscate and auction off certain reclaimed lands to force the government-controlled corporation to pay its tax obligations.

A case was later filed by the agency against city officials to stop them from confiscating and selling the reclaimed land. The case is pending in the regional trial court.

Corruption caused the Sampaloc tragedy

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE FIRE THAT DESTROYED A BOARDINGhouse at the University Belt in Manila and killed eight persons, mostly students, was a tragedy waiting to happen.

The blame should be placed on the laps of the following offices: the license division and the office of the building administrator of the Manila City Hall, and the Manila fire department.

Had those offices or agencies been true to their jobs, Sunday's tragedy would not have taken place.

Almost all the boardinghouses at the University Belt are virtual death traps.

Mostly made of wooden materials, these boardinghouses are old and dilapidated. When fire breaks out, it spreads fast.

Boarders are packed like sardines in these dormitories. A room is divided into cubicles with double or triple decks inside each cubicle.

On top of all these, most houses at the University Belt don't have fire exits or ladders. And if they do have fire exits or ladders, the windows leading to the fire exits are padlocked and the keys are kept by the landlady or landlord.

Officials and employees of the license division, the office of the building administrator and the fire department periodically inspect the buildings. But the visits are mostly not official, but social (read: collection of bribes).

Of course, there will be investigations and inspections of houses in the Sampaloc area where the University Belt is located. Officials of these agencies will, for the benefit of the media, close down dormitories they consider fire traps.

But after the furor dies down, it's back to normal again, meaning, back to collecting bribes from owners of the "death traps."

***

Up to now, the National Bureau of Investigation doesn't have a permanent chief almost a month after the death of Director Reynaldo Wycoco from a stroke.

Nestor Mantaring is director in an acting capacity. Reports say he will eventually be replaced.

There are rumors that an outsider, most probably a police general, may again be at the helm of the country's premier law enforcement agency.

The rumors have sent the morale of NBI agents plunging. They want one of their own to be their chief.

If President Macapagal-Arroyo is averse to having an insider as NBI chief, why not a former insider, say, Orlando Dizon?

Dizon resigned from the NBI to become associate commissioner at the Bureau of Immigration. But he's now out of the immigration bureau.

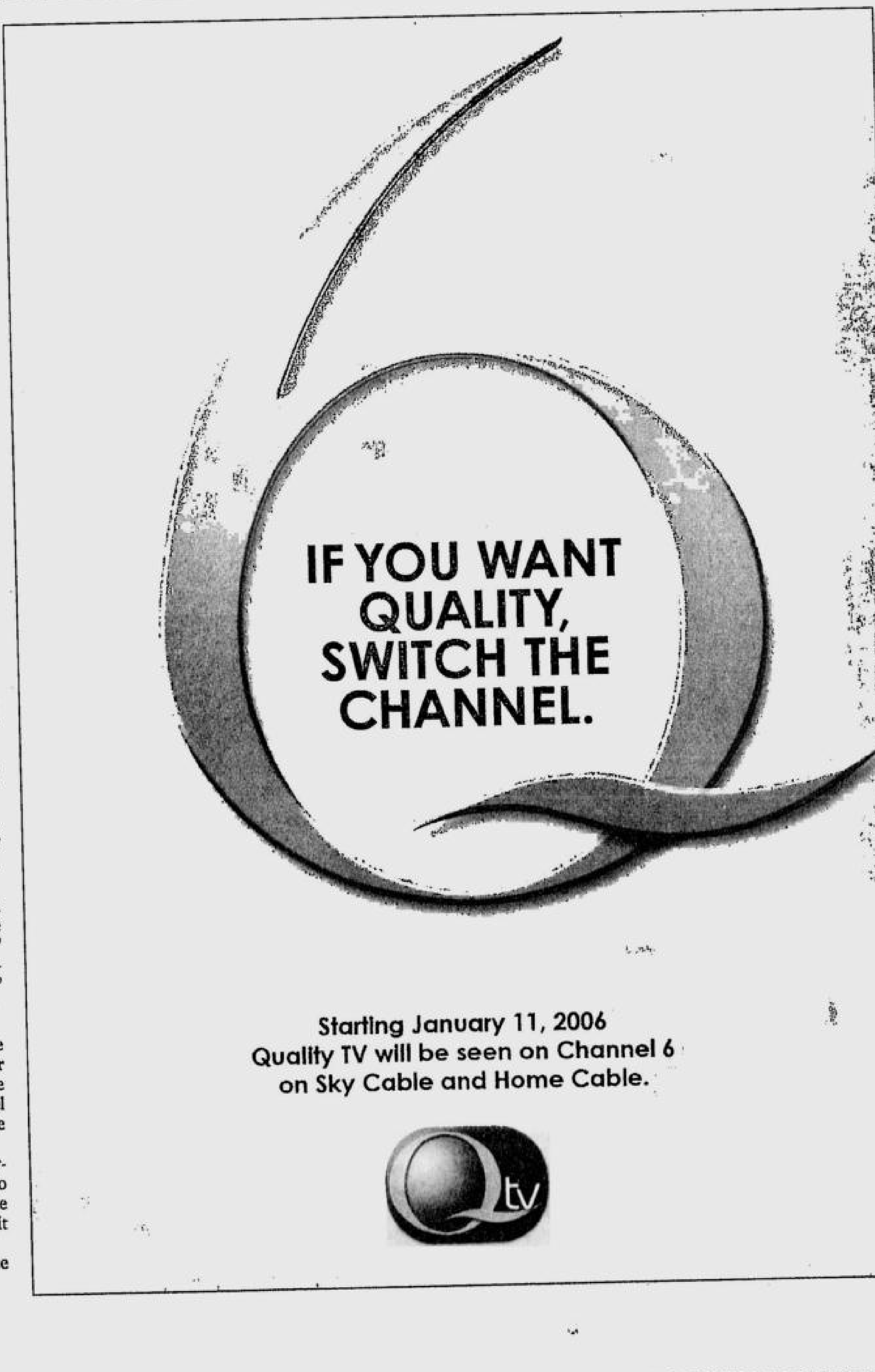
A Kapampangan like the President, Dizon was respected by his peers at the NBI when he was still in the bureau. He was a "go-getter," meaning he didn't leave any assignment unfinished. And he was assigned the "dirty jobs." I leave that to the imagination of the readers.

***

A department head at the East Avenue Medical Center continues to hold on to her post even after she was asked to resign by the Department of Health. An investigating panel has found that the department head made charity patients pay their hospital bills.

Health Undersecretary Jade del Mundo ordered the EAMC head, Dr. Rolando Cortez, to hand the department head the verdict. She was asked to resign to give her a graceful exit and for her to receive benefits.

But Dr. Cortez hasn't given her the notice to vacate. Why?


IF YOU WANT QUALITY, SWITCH THE CHANNEL.

Starting January 11, 2006
Quality TV will be seen on Channel 6
on Sky Cable and Home Cable.

Qtv

METRO
E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

EZ2 20 16

SUERTES 6 3 2

FOUR DIGIT 6 1 2 4

(In exact order)

MEGALOTTO 6/45 3 13 14 15 31 39

₱11,311,459.20

Text us your feedback:
inquirer met name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

1 dead in Quiapo fiesta stampede

By Margaux C. Ortiz

A SEEMINGLY HARMLESS manhole caused it all.

The annual Black Nazarene procession in Quiapo, Manila, yesterday was marred by the death of a male devotee who suffered a heart attack during a stampede.

Medical officer Shirley Yabut of the Manila Health Department said the man fell into a manhole with a defective cover shortly before the statue of the Black Nazarene was taken out of the Quiapo Church at 2 p.m.

Yabut said the victim was brought to the Philippine General Hospital (PGH) for treatment after paramedics at the site failed to revive him.

PGH doctors later identified the man as a certain Dante, describing him as "between 42 to 45 years old, and muscular with very short hair."

"Four other devotees tripped over the manhole and were brought to the ambulance for treatment of injuries," Yabut said, adding that the victims were stepped on by other panicking devotees during the stampede.

An Associated Press report, quoting National Capital Region Police Office Director Vidal Querol, said the crowd was trying to get near the Black Nazarene statue when a wooden manhole cover caved in.

Several men, among them Dante, who were standing on the cover fell and were stepped on. It took time before the men, bloodied and unconscious, were carried out of the jam-packed square in front of the Quiapo Church and taken to a hospital for treatment, Querol said.

20 persons hurt

Manila Police District Supt. Romulo Sapitula said around 20 persons were hurt during the procession.

"While there were only 16 people injured last year, this year's activity was more peaceful because organizers and devotees did not have a hard time taking out the statue from the church," Sapitula said. The police officer said the crowd reached 600,000 at 4 p.m.

An hour before, marching bands simultaneously played party music like "Hawaii 5-0" and "Get This Party Started" while different statues of the Black Nazarene were paraded in streets surrounding Plaza Miranda.

Devotees threw their towels and handkerchiefs at the people in charge of the statues. The "image custodians" would then rub the towels on the statues and throw these back to the crowd.

Barefoot devotees

Hundreds of maroon-clad male devotees also milled around the area.

Pedro Ampo, 67, a Black Nazarene devotee for 12 years, carried an incense holder and a mineral bottle full of incense powder "as perfume for the spirits."

DEVOTEES of the Black Nazarene try to grasp the rope attached to the cart carrying the statue which is believed to have healing powers. The procession yesterday, however, ended in tragedy for a participant.

ERIK ARAZAS

"We have been doing this for Jesus Christ, because we believe in Him," said Ampo, who stood barefoot while the procession passed by.

Black Nazarene believers also lined up outside the church, waiting for their turn to kiss the statue stationed near the altar.

"The Black Nazarene is miraculous," Leonardo Lim Sr., 53, declared. He said the figure of Christ bearing a cross had granted his prayers, including his wish to work abroad and good health for all his children.

2 die in Makati fire; couple in dorm blaze still missing

**By Margaux C. Ortiz
and Tarra V. Quismundo**

A WOMAN AND HER DAUGHTER WERE killed after they were trapped inside their burning house on Diesel Street, Barangay Palanan, Makati City, early Yesterday morning.

The victims were identified as Mary Jane Baylon, 37, and Iris, 8. Baylon's husband, Erwin, and her three other daughters, Jamin, 12, Janelle, 10, and Gaby, 3, were able to get out of the house.

As the blaze raged, fire officials yesterday said they were still trying to look for a man and his wife who have been missing after a fire on Sunday killed eight young people in Sampaloc, Manila.

FO1 Guillermo Fermalino said the couple, Ricky and Cherry Alag, were among the occupants of the two-story apartment building at 833 P. Campa St..

"But we have yet to confirm if the reports are true," Fermalino said in a phone interview, adding that the bodies of the unidentified victims have yet to undergo autopsy.

He added that building owner Juan Manahan has yet to give a statement to arson investigators.

"We also could not immediately determine the cause because debris covered the ground floor kitchen where the fire allegedly started," Fermalino said.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza has ordered City Administrator Dino Nable to form a panel that would investigate how the building obtained a permit to operate despite alleged violations of safety requirements like fire escapes.

On the other hand, initial investigation showed that the Makati fire began at the ground floor of the Baylon house a few minutes after 4 a.m. yesterday. It quickly spread as the house was made mostly of light materials, said Chief Insp. Rogelio Bucayu, acting fire chief of the Makati Fire Department.

"The survivors said the fire may have begun at the altar, where they left a lit candle. Initially, that was the cause of fire we are looking at, but this is still subject for further investigation," Bucayu told the INQUIRER.

Nardo said Erwin and his house help, Jessie Banderas, managed to get the children out one by one through a narrow window in the bedroom at the second floor, as the fire raged below.

Victims trapped in bedroom

Unfortunately, the fire spread quickly, engulfing the second floor where Mary Jane and Iris were sleeping.

Their bodies were later found inside one of the bedrooms, burned beyond recognition. Mary Jane was found crouched on top of her daughter, apparently to protect her, fire officials said.

The two-story house, one of the units of the Baylon family's three-door apartment, was completely destroyed said Bucayu. The adjacent house, separated by a concrete wall from the Baylon house, was partly destroyed. Damages were placed at P200,000.

Yesterday's fire was the first to be reported this year in which there were fatalities. In November, a fire that razed a dozen houses in Barangay Pembo killed Rosana Acas, 35, and daughter Mary Grace, also 8. Like the Baylons, the two died after they were trapped inside their burning house.

Bird watchers' club in urban setting

By Tarra V. Quismundo

NURTURING A DREAM TO HAVE a city of bird lovers one day, Makati has formed an organization to look after its winged residents and visitors.

The Makati Bird Watchers Club (MBWC), organized by the city's Department of Environmental Services (DES), seeks to enlist residents' support in turning Makati into a bird-friendly city.

"All that is required is one's interest. What we want the club to become is a government-initiated group that would eventually be run by private individuals as a non-government organization (NGO) working for the protection of birds and the conservation of their habitat here," said DES Parks and Green Division chief Moises Camacho, the head of the project.

The MBWC was formed in line with a Makati ordinance that declared the whole city a bird sanctuary.

The ordinance penalizes "hunting, shooting, snaring and capturing" birds, the illegal trade of wild birds, harvest of bird eggs, and the destruction of nests and areas known to be their habitats.

"This would serve as a community-based, school-based organization that would be part of our implementing arm for the ordinance... a watchdog which would report to us sightings of birds, illegal bird trading, and other acts prohibited by the ordinance," Camacho told the INQUIRER. He said the organization would encourage members to create "backyard bird sanctuaries," lots planted with trees and other greens conducive to bird habitation.

The club has yet to be formally launched although it hopes to recruit members from the public and private sectors, businessmen, students, even out-of-school youth.

"It would be run by volunteers engaged in bird watching activities, among others," said Camacho, a member of the Wild Bird Club of the Philippines.

Park launch to highlight Navotas centennial fête

By Nancy C. Carvajal

NAVOTAS, THE COUNTRY'S fishing capital, will mark its 100th founding anniversary on Jan. 16 through a series of activities from Jan. 10 to 16.

The highlight of the centennial celebration will be the opening and inauguration of the municipality's newest landmark—the Navotas Centennial Park at C-4 Road, Barangay Bagumbayan North.

"The inaugural ceremony also marks the leaders of this town's continuous struggle for progress," Navotas Mayor Toby Tiangco said in a telephone interview.

The coastal town, which has 14 barangays and a population of over 250,000, was declared a separate town from Malabon in 1906.

Among the activities for the centennial celebration with the theme, "Navotas : Maunlad na Bayan sa Senternaryong Pagdiriwang," are a historical parade, a job and trade fair, a motorcade and a calisthenics competition.

On Jan. 11, town officials will launch a book on the town's history titled "Navotas: Kahapon, Ngayon at Bukas," at 7 p.m. at the municipal hall.

Medical mission

The Centennial Mutya ng Navotas coronation night will be held on Jan. 13 followed by a medical and dental mission the following day.

On Jan. 15, there will a variety show and a fireworks display during the inauguration of the centennial park at 7 p.m.

YOURS FOR FREE!
gadgets & gizmos
home appliances
home entertainment
PBCOM
Philippine Bank of Communications
EARNER AddVANTAGE PROMO

Enjoy a host of exciting rewards while your money earns maximum yields.

Pioneer DVD Player
Kolin 14" Color TV
Sharp Karaoke
iPod Shuffle
Pioneer DVD with Karaoke
LG Personal Refrigerator
Whirlpool Microwave Oven
Samsung 17" Flat Screen TV
Panasonic Water Heater
Magic Sing Karaoke Microphone
La Germania Gas Range/Oven
Whirlpool Washing Machine
Sony Micro Component
Sony 21" Flat Screen TV
Condura Air Conditioner
LG 7 cu. ft. Refrigerator
LG Air Conditioner
Sony Digital Camera
Panasonic 8 cu. ft. Refrigerator
Carrier Air Conditioner
Pioneer Home Theater System
LG Component
Gift Certificates
Caltex Gas Card (for Metro Manila only)

It's so easy to join!
- Simply open a PBCom FlexiEarner or PBCom SureEarner Account.
- Earn one (1) point for every P50,000 deposit.
- A minimum of six (6) accumulated points entitles you to one (1) instant reward.
- The more you deposit, the more points you earn, the greater rewards you can get! See promo brochures for details.

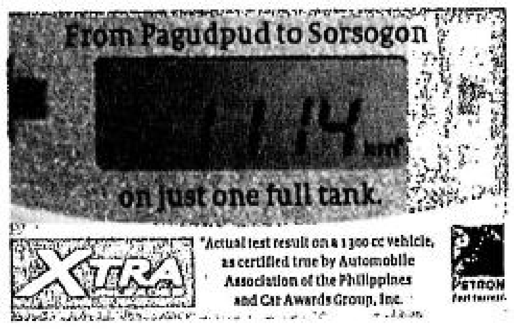
Hurry! Call or visit your nearest PBCom branch NOW.
Promo runs until January 31, 2006.

PBCOM FLEXIEARNER
PBCOM SUREEARNER

Philippine Bank of Communications
PBCom Tower, 6795 Ayala Avenue corner V.A. Rufino St., 1226 Makati City
Trunk Line: 830-7000 • Email: info@pbcom.com.ph • www.pbcom.com.ph

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0010, Series of 2006
Member: PDIC-Deposits insured up to P250,000 BancNet

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres
Text us your feedback: inquirer sprt name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)



*Actual test result on a 1300 cc vehicle, as certified true by Automobile Association of the Philippines and Car Awards Group, Inc.

'Ten or more sports' eyed for Olympics

By Musong R. Castillo

THE HUNT FOR THE FIRST Philippine gold in the Olympics can go beyond 10 sports after all.

Focus on what sport can achieve that breakthrough for the country can go even wider after a series of meetings starting late this month among officials of the Philippine Sports Commission, the Philippine Olympic Committee and the various National Sports Associations.

PSC chair William "Butch" Ramirez, after a meeting with sports patron and First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, yesterday said the next three months will be crucial in kicking off the hunt for the elusive Olympic victory.

Ramirez said the rest of this month will be devoted to consultations with the NSAs and the POC before the identification of the Olympic sports in February.

"The identification of these sports will depend heavily on the potential of the athletes," said the head of the government sports agency who also welcomed the prospect of Michael Keon being reappointed as Asiad national training director.

This will be followed by pinpointing the places where the athletes will train, as well as the formulation of strategies and the raising of a budget to fund the undertaking.

The First Gentleman is also scheduled to start in March a new fund-raising program for the 16th Asiad in Doha, Qatar, in December, which could very well gauge whether or not the country is ripe to win its first Olympic gold.

"He (Arroyo) has the same passion and intensity to raise funds for Doha," Ramirez said.

Arroyo raised a total of P160 million last year which helped fund the training of athletes and exposed them to competitions overseas.

Incidentally, Ramirez has been invited by Sen. Manuel Villar to appear before the finance committee on Jan. 17 to explain the PSC's budget.

TEN/ A20

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ McGrady hospitalized /A19
■ Asiad may not have seen the last of Mikee /A20
■ Hingis gets a reality check /A19

Pacman picked to beat Morales A18

FOR THOSE ASPIRING TO BECOME
LICENSED REAL ESTATE BROKERS !
Get in advance your handouts, review materials with free user's guide and also orientation on the conduct of the seminar and review and how to prepare for the examination by yourself
For more details, call 681-0928 or email urbanet@pacific.net.ph or simply text "HANDOUTS" to CP# 0916-426-9174
URBAN INSTITUTE OF REAL ESTATE

SCALP IRRITATIONS?
Never Again!

FOR YOUR DANDRUFF AND ITCHY SCALP
Get Tricho-Intensive Treatments

Dandruff, very oily or dry, itchy scalp and other irritations may lead to hair loss if you don't do anything about it. Shampoos may not give you enough help. But with **Svenson International,** you'll get optimum results through our **Tricho-Intensive Treatments.** Your scalp will be thoroughly cleansed to provide the ideal environment for healthier hair growth. No more embarrassing dandruff or discomfort from various scalp problems.

If you value your hair, trust Svenson.
Call us today for a FREE consultation.

Svenson
INTERNATIONAL
YOUR CHOICE NOT TO BE BALD

CALL 892-HAIR (4247)

MAKATI
15/F GT Tower

TOMAS MORATO
3/F CKB Center

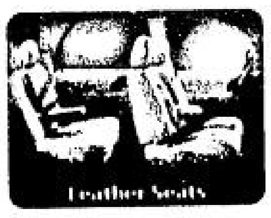
BINONDO
11/F Federal Tower Bldg.

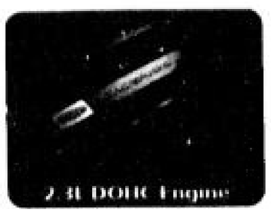
ALABANG
4/F Citibank-Frabelle Bldg.

CEBU
TEL: 234-0851
7/F Keppel Centre

NBX
OBSESSED WITH GOOD LOOKS?
Ford

Introducing the New Ford Escape NBX Limited Edition.
The Escape now has a more stunning look. See how the dual-tone exterior, clear headlamps, 16-inch alloy wheels and sporty two-tone leather interior add extra flair to the smooth ride of this 2.3L machine. And the biggest attraction: it's only available to a limited few.


Leather Seats


2.3L DOHC Engine

For every Ford vehicle sold, P1,000 goes to the road safety program.
www.ford.com.ph
Ford Solutions
For financing call 635-1251

• Ford Alabang, Trunk Lines: 842-3681 / 842-4628; Fax No. 807-4430 • Ford Balintawak, Trunk Line: 927-9648; Fax No. 927-5981 • Ford Commonwealth, Tel. Nos.: 952-9118, 952-9441, 952-9446 Fax No. 952-9440 • Ford EDSA Greenhills, Tel. No. [illegible], Fax No. 723-6311 • Ford EDSA Service Center Tel. No. 723-7029 • Ford Libis, Trunk Line 637-2044, Fax No. 637-6008 • Ford Global City, Trunkline 860-8888, Fax No. 818-5000 • Ford Manila, Tel. No. 562 5555 Fax No.: 562-8985 • Ford Quezon Avenue, Tel. Nos. 731-2617 / 742-3435 742-3436 Fax 742-3451 • Ford Shaw Blvd., Trunk Line 717 0888, Telefax 717-1390 • Ford Pampanga, Trunk Line (045) 961-2888, Fax Nos. (045) 963-5205 / 961-2277 • Ford Cabanatuan, Tel. No. (044) 464-0111, Fax No. (044) 600-4200 • Ford Dagupan, Tel. No. (075) 522-2222, Telefax (075) 515-5520 • Ford San Pablo, Tel. No. (049) 562-9186, Telefax (049) 562-8324 • Ford Cavite, Tel. No. (046) 472-2040; Fax (046) 472-2048 • Ford Cebu, Trunk Line (032) 231-9180, Fax No. (032) 231-9023 • Ford Bacolod, Tel. No. (034) 432 2551, Telefax (034) 434-2877 • Ford Iloilo, Tel. No. (033) 321-3352, Telefax No. (033) 321-3351 • Ford Cagayan de Oro, Tel. No. (088) 855-8811, Telefax (088) 855-8877 • Ford Davao, Tel. No. (082) 234-0111, Fax No. (082) 234-2222 • Ford Credit, Tel. No. 635-1251

St. Scholastica, San Agustin off to hot starts

TITLEHOLDERS COLEGIO SAN AGUSTIN AND St. Scholastica's College got off to rousing starts Sunday in the 11th Women's Volleyball League (WVL) at the San Beda College gym in Alabang.

Elementary Competitive defending champion Colegio San Agustin beat Diliman Preparatory School, 25-5, 25-8, to kick off its campaign in the tournament organized by Nic Jorge's BEST Center and sponsored by Milo.

Equally impressive was St. Scholastica's which survived a tough first set before trouncing PAREF-Rosehill High School, 25-21, 25-19, in High School Developmental play.

St. Scholastica's came back from an 8-10 deficit to build a 15-10 edge in the second set.

In other matches, host San Beda College-Alabang clobbered Stella Maris College, 25-11, 22-25, 15-8, and St. Paul Pasig defeated St. Niño Catholic School, 25-16, 25-14, in the High School Developmental.

In High School Competitive, SBC-Alabang whipped Poveda Learning Centre, 25-12, 25-15, while School of St. Anthony downed UP Integrated School, 25-15, 25-20.

Former national coach Florentino "Kidd" Flores, the WVL commissioner, expects the competition to be tighter this year.

DOUGLAS J. ABBOTT, #53040
Attorney at Law
4966 El Camino Real, Suite 125
Los Altos, Ca 94022-1406
(650) 967-1001
Attorney for Petitioner

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA

In the Matter of the Adoption Petition of) No. 105 A 019531
) CITATION TO APPEAR AT HEARING
SAMSON D. AGBAYANI) (Family Code S8604b)
Adopting Parent,)

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

To LUISITO S. TABURADA:

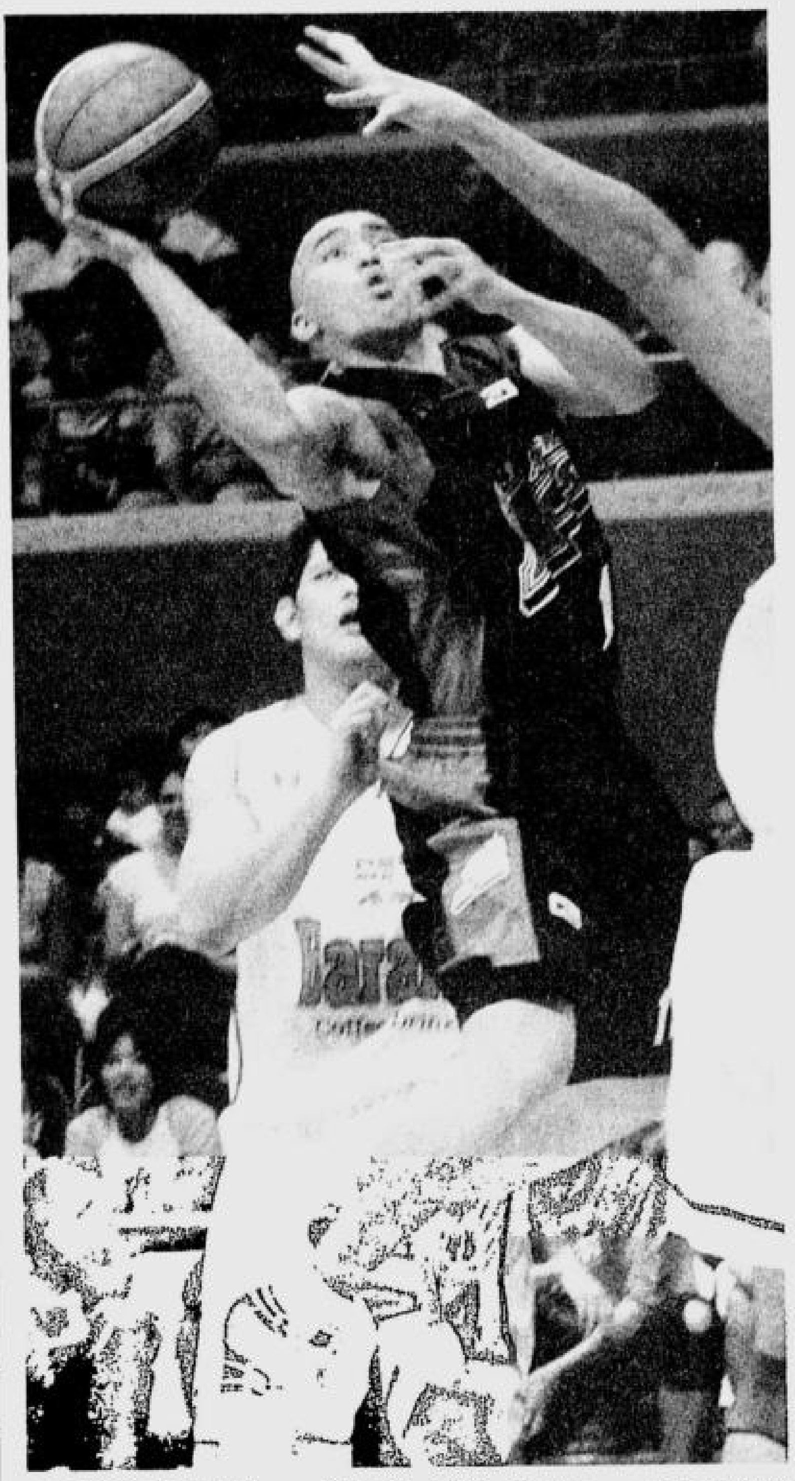
YOU ARE CITED to appear at 9:00 a.m. on Feb. 10, 2006, in Department 60 of the above-entitled court, located at 115 Terraine Street, San Jose, California. At that time and place, you must show cause why the petition of SAMSON D. AGBAYANI to adopt your minor child, KACYS LUV F. TABURADA, should not be granted without your consent in the above-entitled proceeding, on the ground that you have abandoned that child. The adoption petition alleges that for a period of one year after April, 2003, you willfully failed to communicate with, and pay for the care, support and education of, the above child although you were able to do so. A copy of the petition is on file with the court.

YOU ARE FURTHER ADVISED that if you appear at the above hearing and wish to have legal counsel but are unable to afford counsel, the court will appoint counsel on your behalf.

Dated : Dec. 8, 2005 Clerk of the Superior Court
By : B. Forbes
Deputy Clerk

CITATION TO APPEAR AT HEARING

(PDI – Dec. 20 & 27, 2005 & Jan. 3 & 10, 2006)



AMAZING FORM: Player of the Week Mike Cortez AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Aces find new Johnny A in Mike Cortez

By June Navarro

SINCE JOHNNY ABARRIENTOS LEFT ALASKA, the Aces have been looking for someone who could fill his shoes.

Mike Cortez wasn't even close, but he displayed shades of the young Abarrientos in the 1990s when the Aces took Game 1 of their best-of-three wildcard series with the Sta. Lucia Realtors in the San Mig Coffee-PBA Fiesta Conference Sunday night.

Cortez saved the Aces from the brink of disaster in regulation and in the first overtime, before finishing off the Realtors with a drive off a pick-and-roll during the second extension period.

It reminded everybody how Abarrientos won several down-the-wire games for the Aces in 1996, the year he became the league's smallest MVP after leading Alaska to a rare grand slam.

The 5-foot-7 Abarrientos was traded to the now-defunct Pop Cola Panthers in 2000 after helping the Aces capture nine of their 10 PBA championships. Now playing for Coca-Cola, Abarrientos was absorbed by the Tigers when the RFM-owned franchise left the PBA in 2001.

Just like the Abarrientos of old, Cortez took over when needed in Game 1. He fired a career-high 27 points, nine in the final extra session, while import Odell Bradley and the disqualified Jeffrey Cariaso watched from the sidelines.

Bradley leads the Aces in scoring with 25.7 points per game while Cariaso's 13.1 points a night makes him the team's top local scorer.

"He was awesome," Alaska coach Tim Cone said of Cortez, the 2003 No. 1 overall pick. "They (Realtors) couldn't get an antidote [to Cortez], so we just kept on going to him."

For his heroics, Cortez was selected overwhelmingly as the San Mig Coffee-PBA Press Corps Player of the Week.

"This is a good motivation coming into Game 2," said Cortez, who went nine of 20 from the field, converted all of his eight freethrows, and issued eight assists.

Should Cortez and the Aces wrap it up tomorrow, they will advance to the best-of-five quarterfinals against the Red Bull Barako.

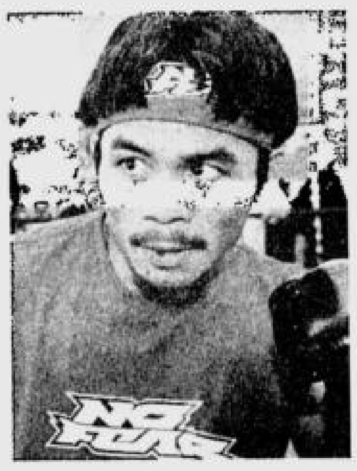
Meanwhile, Air21 head coach Bo Perasol has been summoned to appear before Commissioner Noli Eala today, two days after he lost his cool and was ejected after a referee's call on Ranidel De Ocampo.

"It was just a spur-of-the-moment reaction, but I believe we really got the raw end of the officiating at that instance," said Perasol after the Express won Game 1 of their best-of-three wildcard series against San Miguel Beer last Sunday.

With nine seconds left and the Express ahead, 79-73, De Ocampo tried to pry the ball loose from Danny Seigle in a rebound play. Referee Throngy Aldaba whistled a defensive foul on De Ocampo, and Perasol flared up in protest.

Perasol got a double technical foul and was thrown out.

US oddsmakers pick Pacquiao



PACQUIAO: Early favorite

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA—MANNY Pacquiao and Erik Morales took center stage at the MGM grand for the first time last March, displaying their status as two of the world's most powerful super featherweights to millions of fans.

On Jan. 21, the rivals reprise their bloody encounter in "The Battle" at the Thomas and Mack Center in Las Vegas with Pacquiao favored by the oddsmakers to prevail this time over Morales, the Mexican they call El Terrible.

The "Pacman" starts on Monday the final phase of his rigorous sparring at Freddie Roach's Wild Card Gym in Hollywood.

After hearing Mass Sunday, Pacquiao tapered off from his usual grind and was looking with keen anticipation at what his sparmates can bring to the dance in the final phase of his training.

The Filipino boxing hero is scheduled to proceed to Las Vegas on a motorcade next Monday.

"Pacman is so loose," according to one of his fans Sunday. He was with a group of Filipinos salivating at the prospect of an exciting evening at the T&M Center.

A quicker ending is anticipated by both camps owing to the thinness in the knuckle area of the Cleto Reyes brand of boxing gloves to be used for the fight. Pacquiao had complained of the Japanese-made gloves in the first fight.

The first meeting went to the gritty Mexican, but the Filipino idol has vowed to clinch a memorable win when they clash anew. *Hermie Rivera, contributor*

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
Metro Manila Development Authority
PASIG RIVER REHABILITATION COMMISSION

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Project : Pasig River Environmental Management and Rehabilitation Sector Development Program (PAREMAR)
Loan No. : Asian Development Bank (ADB) Loan No. 1746-PHI
Description of Works : Design, Site Development and Construction of 1,000 Units of Socialized Housing

1. The Government of the Philippines (GOP) has received a loan from the ADB toward the cost of PAREMAR and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan, together with the GOP counterpart funds, to payments under the Contract for Design, Site Development and Construction of 1,000 Units of Socialized Housing.
2. The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) as the executing agency now invites sealed Bids from Eligible Bidders for the following contract packages:

Contract Package	Design, Site Development and Construction of 1,000 Units of Socialized Housing
Contract No.	Contract No.: EPA-RAP-H01
Contract Duration	360 Calendar Days
Project Description	Design, site development and construction of 1,000 units of socialized housing, including the following community facilities: School Building/s, Health Center/s, Multi-Purpose Halls, and Health/Day Care Center/s. Scope of work shall include the following: architectural works, structural works, electrical works, carpentry works, painting works, sanitary/plumbing workis, water supply, site work, site improvement and drainage work, among others.

3. Proposals will be accepted from licensed private developers, GOP enterprises the majority of which is publicly-owned including non-government organizations (NGOs) with demonstrated track record in the development of sustainable communities including social preparation, design and construction of socialized/low-cost housing units employing community-participation and post-relocation capability-building activities. Licensed private developers and NGOs could submit proposals either as individual bidders, Individual bidders with subcontractors or as joint ventures. Interested Bidders shall secure the Bid Documents and submit bids as follows:

Activity	Date	Time	Venue
Securing of (a) Eligibility checklist or (b) submission of Letter of Intent and purchase of complete set of Bid Documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 10,500.00	From Jan. 13 to 20, 2006	From 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.	PRRC, 2F MWSS Engineering Bldg. Katipunan Road, Old Balara, Quezon City
Securing of additional eligibility information (if any) and inspection of Bidding Documents	From Jan. 13 to 20, 2006	From 9:00 a.m. 3:00 p.m.	
Pre-Bid Conference	Jan. 27, 2006	10:00 a.m.	PRRC, 2F MWSS Engineering Bldg. Katipunan Road, Old Balara, Quezon City
Deadline for Submission of Bids	March 20, 2006	10:00 a.m.	PRRC, 2F MWSS Engineering Bldg. Katipunan Road, Old Balara, Quezon City
Opening of Bids	March 20, 2006	10:30 a.m.	PRRC, 2F MWSS Engineering Bldg. Katipunan Road, Old Balara, Quezon City

4. The National Housing Authority (NHA) shall be the implementing agency of the Project.
5. Bidding (Eligibility Check/Prequalification, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract) shall be conducted on the basis of local competitive bidding among interested Bidders from ADB eligible source countries as defined under the "Guidelines for Procurement by the Asian Development Bank and its Borrowers" pursuant to the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. No. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," to the extent it is consistent with the Asian Development Bank's procedures.
6. The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids anytime prior to Contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) BINGLE H.B. GUTIERREZ
Executive Director

Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission
2F, MWSS Engineering Bldg., Katipunan Road, Old Balara, Quezon City 1105
Tel Nos. 433-3444 and 433-3447, Fax No. 926-5234
Email Address: prrc@tri-isys.com
(PDI – January 3 and 10, 2006)

'The Courier'

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN MY BELIEF that if Mike Cortez is in shape, Alaska would be hard to beat.

It is not every day that we get to see players like Mike Cortez who can deliver the goods when his team needs them most. He did just that on Sunday, shouldering Alaska past Sta. Lucia Realty in a manner only the likes of Superman could. He was so fabulously efficient in carrying Alaska to heights not once or twice but thrice that I am now inclined to christen Mike Cortez "The Courier." As a result of The Courier's explosive game, Alaska moved to within a game of advancing to the next round in the San Mig Coffee-PBA Fiesta Conference.

Cortez had been out of commission for weeks, if not months, due to an injury. As a result, Alaska, a tested PBA power through the years, struggled. With The Courier back in harness, the Aces are again scoring the aces they had so horribly missed in the eliminations.

In this particular Sunday outing, Cortez canned the crucial shots in regulation, in the first overtime and in the second extension.

A Cortez drive in the lane in the second overtime was the apex of The Courier's sterling performance as it shoved Alaska to a 102-101 lead. Alaska would proceed to score a 108-104 victory—a triumph that would go to the books as authored substantially by Cortez, who scored a career-high 27 points.

It was actually a night to remember as Air21 defeated San Miguel Beer in the second game, 97-88, as the Express bucked the ejection of coach Bo Perasol.

Like Alaska, Air21 will advance to the next round should it beat San Miguel Beer anew in the second game of a similar best-of-three series in the wildcard phase.

As I said, the conference format has been drawing raves for its sheer ingenuity since all teams are virtually assured of equal chances of advancing to the finals. In short, the achievers are instantly rewarded—Purefoods got the first semifinal slot with its tournament-best 10-6 elimination record—and the strugglers, if not stragglers, are given tons of chances to climb out of the pits.

Thus, tomorrow's twinbill should prove to be thrillers anew as San Miguel Beer and Sta. Lucia Realty fight for life.

The Beermen are, indeed, in dire straits, hurting as they are due to three successive battles prior to tomorrow's showdown with the Express. But as I said, athletes are always supposed to be in shape and the word "burnout" should be stricken off their vocabularies. For example, a boxer cannot say "I am now suffering from 'burnout' and I can't continue fighting anymore" after the 10th or 11th round. A championship fight usually lasts 12 rounds.

San Miguel must forget about burnout, exhaustion, whatever, if it wishes to stay alive. Otherwise, Air21 would be off and speeding to the next round.

As for Sta. Lucia, well, all it has to do is find what our PBA man June Navarro said, "A quick antidote" to The Courier, to force a rubber match. Otherwise, Alaska would advance, maybe unimpeded this time, and make life miserable once more to the title pretenders.

* * *

Comments to menju@pldtdsl.net

Asia's top duathletes vying in Clark meet

SENATOR Pia Cayetano finishes second in the ladies Pro Division of the national duathlon meet in Clark Field last Dec. 18.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS-BOUND duathletes from 10 countries will compete for top honors in the Asian Duathlon Championships slated April 8 and 9 in Clark Field, Pampanga.

Tom Carrasco, president of the organizing Triathlon Association of the Philippines (TRAP), and officials of event host Clark Development Corp. said they expect veterans of the last world meet in Australia, including world-ranked athletes from Japan, Uzbekhistan, Kazakhstan and China, to vie for the titles in the tough two-day competitions.

Ryan Mendoza, fourth among Asians in the latest International Triathlon Union rankings, leads the Filipino challenge in the championships.

He will be up against Japan's Tadashi Mori, Marami Nakamura and Shinji Yamamoto—Asia's top 3 duathletes—as well as against the feared Uzbekhs and Kazakhs.

The CDC management said five other international competitions are being planned at the former United States Air Force base this year to boost Clark's reputation as a new venue for sports tourism.

Some 300 duathletes saw action in the fourth national meet, also held at the same venue, last Dec. 18.

Titles in several categories of the bike-run-bike competitions were disputed at the Clark Expo.

Japanese girls spur revival of golf boom

TOKYO—YURI MEGURO USED TO THINK golf was a dull sport for old men.

Just six months after she first gripped a driver, she now regards a round, even on a freezing cold morning, as blissful.

"It's so relaxing. Beautiful greens and fresh air... they help me forget all the unpleasant things of everyday life," Meguro, 33, who works for a clothing company, said.

"You need a little bit of exercise when you get to this age and I found golfing ideal."

Meguro is one of a growing number of Japanese women who have taken up golf, long seen as the exclusive turf of businessmen, and who are reviving the country's $17-billion golf industry.

Encouraged by the popularity of young women golfers including 20-year-old professional Ai Miyazato, more women and young players are teeing off as Japan's economic revival prompts increased spending on leisure activities.

Japan, a densely populated country with a land area approximately the same as California's, has some 2,500 golf courses. One in 10 Japanese plays a sport long seen as expensive and geared to the tastes of unhip oldsters.

That has changed in recent years thanks to golf courses being forced to cut fees and renewed interest in the sport, says Japan Golf Association spokesperson Masami Nakahori.

"We have a solid feeling that more people have started showing an interest in golf or have begun actually playing it," Nakahori said.

He said the number of spectators for the Japan Women's Open reached a record 50,000 this year, more than double last year's total.

Renewed interest in the game helped Japan's largest golf course operator, Pacific Golf International Holdings K.K., on its stock market debut last month.

The company's shares soared 45 percent on their first day of trading in Japan's first initial public offering of a firm devoted solely to golf course management.

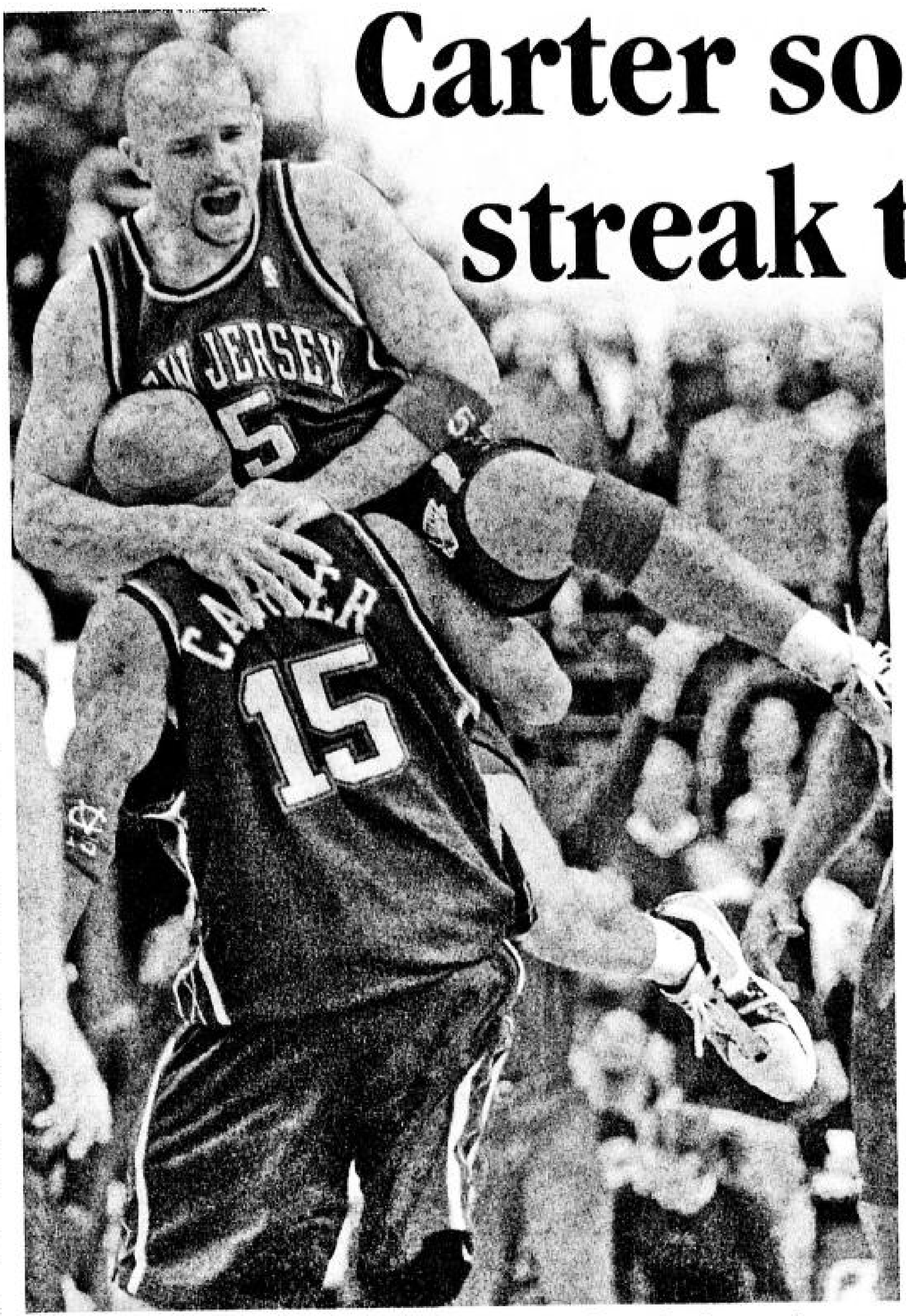
At the height of Japan's bubble economy of soaring stock and land prices in the late 1980s, membership fees at Japan's golf courses soared but the market was hit hard after the bubble burst in the early 1990s.

Nearly 600 golf courses went under with about 13 trillion yen in debt between 1991 and last March, according to golf magazine publisher Ikki Publishing.

The economic downturn also cut average spending for an 18-hole round by 26 percent to 14,230 yen between 1991 and 2001.

Many golf courses allowed "visitor" access instead of the traditional membership requirement. *Reuters*

Carter soars as Nets streak to 10th win



NETS' Jason Kidd (top) jumps into the arms of teammate Vince Carter after Carter made a game winning three-point basket in the last seconds of their NBA game against the Raptors. REUTERS

TORONTO—VINCE CARTER SCORED 42 POINTS, INCLUDING A GAME winning three-pointer with less than a second to play, lifting the New Jersey Nets to a 105-104 victory over the Toronto Raptors on Sunday.

The contest was a showdown between two of the NBA's hottest teams and the win extended the Nets' winning streak to 10 games.

The Raptors were unbeaten in five and looked poised to improve on their mark after taking a 98-90 lead with less than three minutes to play.

But Carter responded with a dazzling 24-point display in the final quarter against his former team, taking charge down the stretch and scoring the final 10 points for the Nets.

Trailing 103-100 with 21 seconds to play, Carter drained a pair of free throws to get the Nets within one until Jose Calderon hit one of two free throw attempts to put Toronto back in front 104-102.

With time ticking down, Carter took the ball four feet beyond the arc and nailed the game winner to silence the crowd at the Air Canada Center who had lustily booed him each time he touched the ball.

"The atmosphere, the emotion and the hostility in this arena... it was a fun game to play in," Carter told reporters.

"It felt like Game seven of the playoffs out there."

The Nets' unbeaten run is their longest since a franchise record 14-game streak in 2004 and has been keyed by an inspired Carter, who has averaged more than 30 points during the stretch.

Jason Kidd also made a major contribution to the victory, notching 22 points and dishing out 15 assists.

"He (Carter) has been off the charts and there is no better place for him to make a big shot than here," Kidd said.

The only sour note for the Nets was the loss of Richard Jefferson to back spasms early in the opening quarter.

Carter's performance overshadowed another fine effort from the Raptors' Chris Bosh, who scored 27 points and pulled down seven rebounds.

Mike James had 26 points, seven rebounds and seven assists in the loss.

In New York, Stephon Marbury and Maurice Taylor both netted 23 points to help the improving Knicks to their third straight win in a 120-116 decision over the Seattle SuperSonics.

Marbury also had a season high 15 assists for the Knicks and Eddy Curry contributed 22 points.

Ray Allen scored 33 points and Vladimir Radmanovic had a career high 30 points in the loss for the SuperSonics. *Reuters*

Complete results

New Jersey 105, Toronto 104; NY Knicks 120, Seattle 116; Denver 92, Houston 90; Indiana 108, Sacramento 83; Miami 118, Portland 89

SOLAR Sports will air the Seattle-Philadelphia game at 8 a.m. today with a replay at 9 p.m.

McGrady cut down by severe back spasms

HOUSTON, TEXAS—HOUSTON forward Tracy McGrady was stretchered off the court and hospitalized on Sunday after suffering severe back spasms during the Rockets' National Basketball Association game against Denver.

McGrady, who has battled back pain throughout his career, missed a jumper at the end of the first half, then immediately grabbed his lower back.

Wincing in pain, McGrady leaned forward before collapsing on his back onto the court. He then was placed on a stretcher, wheeled off and taken to a local hospital as a precaution, the team said.

McGrady, who is fifth in the league in scoring at 25.4 points per game, had 11 in the first half, which ended with the Nuggets leading 40-37.

He had scored at least 32 in his previous five contests.

The 26-year-old McGrady missed three games from November 5-10 and five more from November 20-26 with back spasms.

At 12-19, the Rockets are in last place in the Southwest Division and were already missing Chinese center Yao Ming, who is recovering from surgery on an infected big toe. *AFP*

TRACY McGrady is loaded onto a stretcher after experiencing severe back spasms. AP

STUART Appleby celebrates with daughter Ella and wife Ashley after beating Singh in a playoff and clinching his third straight title in the Mercedes Championships in Kapalua, Hawaii, Sunday. AP

Appleby remains Kapalua king

KAPALUA, HAWAII—STUART APpleby thought he was cruising to a third straight victory in the Mercedes Championships when a glance at the leaderboard behind the 15th green Sunday gave him quite a shock.

There was Vijay Singh, one shot ahead with the kind of round no one thought possible at windblown Kapalua.

"I had no clue how he did that," Appleby said. "I said to myself, 'I can't lose this tournament.'"

He had to work extra hard to join some elite company, making two birdies on the last four holes to force a playoff, then beating Singh on the first extra hole with a bunker shot from behind the green that tickled the rim of the cup and left him a 2-foot putt, the most nervous he felt all day.

Singh, whose 7-under 66 was nine shots better than the average score in the final round, left a 100-foot putt about 9 feet short on the par-5 18th in a playoff, then missed the birdie putt to the right. Appleby holed his putt to join Gene Littler (1955-57) as the only players to capture this winners-only tournament three straight years.

"This one was the hardest," said Appleby, who went from a two-shot lead to a two-shot deficit before forcing extra holes. "Obviously, I had to win a playoff against Vijay. He was the hottest player by far."

Appleby became the 15th player in PGA Tour history to win the same event three straight years, and the first since Tiger Woods won the Bay Hill Invitational four straight times starting in 2000.

It was only the third playoff at Kapalua, but the finish was familiar—Appleby with a lei around his neck, the keys to a Mercedes-Benz and another great start to the season. He held up three fingers when he accepted his trophy, then held out his thumb and pinkie, Hawaii's sign that everything is cool.

Singh would not come to the media center for comment.

Appleby won the previous two years by one shot, and both times it came down to the final hole, so it's not as though he breezes his way to victory. But the pressure was on after Singh birdied the 16th hole to take a two-shot lead, then recovered from a bogey on the 17th with a simple chip to a foot for birdie on the 18th.

"I had to do something special coming in. I didn't do it, so I had to do it in the playoff," Appleby said. "Winning the Mercedes is awesome. Winning three times is a dream come true."

Both players finished at 8-under 284, the highest score to win in the eight years the season-opening tournament has been played on the Plantation course at Kapalua.

The Mercedes Championships was missing some of the stars this year as Woods, Phil Mickelson, Retief Goosen and Padraig Harrington all stayed home. Singh and Appleby delivered a sterling show.

Not many imagined Singh would be part of a playoff, starting the final round five shots behind. It was only the second round in the 60s all week, the other one a 69 by Olin Browne in the first round when the wind was but a breeze.

All that remained was to see if Appleby could match him. *AP*

Ljubicic halts Moya's win run, wrests title

MADRAS, INDIA—TOP-SEEDED Ivan Ljubicic of Croatia clinched the Chennai Open tennis title by stopping Spanish defending champion Carlos Moya's two-year winning streak Sunday.

World No. 9 Ljubicic won 7-6 (6), 6-2 in the title contest against the third-seeded Moya, who had won the title here in 2004 and 2005.

The 31st-ranked Moya squandered a 4-0 lead in the first set tiebreaker and then saw Ljubicic put pressure to break his service twice in the second set.

But before the title contest, Ljubicic scraped past Belgium's Kristof Vliegen 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (6) in the semifinal earlier Sunday that provided a stiffer contest.

The Ljubicic-Vliegen semifinal was disrupted by heavy showers Saturday night.

Serving 12 aces against Moya's five, Ljubicic dashed the Spaniard's dreams of clinching a title in the year's first week for the third time in a row.

"I feel fantastic at winning a title in the first week of the year for the first time," said Ljubicic, 26, winner of three previous titles and a late replacement for Spain's injured Rafael Nadal.

"It's after a long time that I played two matches in a day, but it helped me. The earlier match gave me the rhythm from the first point in the final," he said.

Moya said the first-set tiebreaker loss hit him hard.

"It was mentally tough," he said. "I had no energy left after losing the tiebreaker in the first set." *AP*

JUSTINE Henin-Hardenne hits a backhand during her first-round match against Hingis at the Sydney International Tennis tournament. REUTERS

Henin-Hardenne gives Hingis a reality check

SYDNEY—JUSTINE HENIN-HARDENNE EASED past Martina Hingis, 6-3, 6-3, in the opening round of the Sydney International on Monday to hand the former world number one her second straight defeat since announcing her comeback.

The Belgian made light work of their much-anticipated clash, cruising to victory in a little over an hour.

"I knew it was going to be a tough first round... but I was probably not at my best today," Hingis told a news conference.

"But I just have to be patient. It's going to take a lot of tournaments, a lot of matches to prepare for things like that."

Lleyton Hewitt overcame a sloppy start and problems with his serve to beat Vince Spadea 2-6 7-5 6-3 in the men's draw but former French Open champion Juan Carlos Ferrero slumped to a 4-6 6-3 7-5 loss to Australian wildcard Chris Guccione.

Hewitt chalked up 57 unforced errors and 10 double-faults before his fighting his way out of trouble although all the attention was won the women's draw.

Hingis, who was knocked out of the semifinals of last week's Australian women's hardcourt championship by Flavia Pennetta in her first serious tournament in more than three years, showed some fleeting glimpses of her old form but struggled to produce the standard of tennis that saw her dominate the sport in the late 1990s.

"I know what I'm aiming for now. That's the way you learn," Hingis said.

The Swiss had not dropped a set in her two previous matches with Henin-Hardenne—both in 2000—but her lack of match practice was evident on Monday as the Belgian ran her ragged on the Sydney International tennis center's center court. *Reuters*

Tribu Sugbu, Valencia cagers forge title showdown

VALENCIA CITY—TRIBU SUGBU AND host Valencia Golden Harvest hurdled their respective rivals Sunday to arrange a grudge rematch for the 5th Day Charter Open Invitational basketball championship here.

The Tribesmen of Lito Gillamac and Mario King crushed Gov. Manny Piñol's North Cotabato Braves, 98-79, while Mayor Jose Galario Jr.'s Valencia cagers toppled Aqua World-backed Pagadian Explorers, 72-64, in the semifinals of the tournament supported by Sulpicio Lines, Spring Cooking Oil, Molten and Prime Channel.

The Skygo/Sirlitz-backed Tribu and Valencia were disputing the crown at presstime last night. The Braves and the Explorers of Mayor Sammy Co were playing for third spot.

Five Tribu players—Doroteo Almacin, Don Yabut, Christian Nicdao, Ale Cainglet and Bernie Ursal—finished in double figures as the Cebuanos dominated the Braves from start to finish.

Julius Navales' 23-point explosion helped Valencia buck a slow start to turn back the Explorers, who were led by ex-pros Peter Naron and Bong Marata.

Tribu coach Al Solis was confident of winning their second straight Nature's Spring-NBC pre-season series despite losing to Valencia, 67-70, in the eliminations. The Tribesmen swept all their matches in the first leg of the pre-series in Antipolo.

The scores:

TRIBU 98—Almacin 17, Cainglet 17, Yabut 15, Nicdao 14, Ursal 12, Calo 8, Ducay 6, Sevilla 5, Luga 4, Butel 0, Bucao 0.

NORTH COTABATO 79—Martinez 17, Reyes 14, Jawod 12, Cabnon 8, Ligue 8, Binas 6, Clar 5, Coronado 4, Jawod 3, Del Norte 2.

Quarters: 23-14, 47-42, 68-58, 98-79

VALENCIA 72—Navales 23, Cruz 13, Braga 11, Ayson 6, Taligatos 5, Berami 4, Cabili 4, Numeran 2, Clavel 1, Adams 0, Cesar 0.

PAGADIAN 64—Daja 17, Naron 15, Marata 12, Cuidora 5, Sinco 3, Isidro 3, Saludsod 2, Dayota 2, Valconcha 2, Omandam 0, Ayuk 0, Cortez 0.

Quarters: 18-23, 41-43, 57-51, 72-64

Asiad may not have seen the last of Mikee

SEMI-RETIRED but always ready to answer the call of flag and country is Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski, seen here on her way to a stunning victory in the 2002 Asian Games in South Korea. PDI PHOTO

By Jasmine W. Payo

WHEN MIKEE COJUANGCO-JAWORSKI won the equestrian gold medal in the 2002 Busan Asian Games, hardly any Filipino was watching.

The unexpected victory, though, sent a strong statement that—more than just a pretty face and a landed family's princess—Cojuangco-Jaworski took her sport seriously.

But at 31, Cojuangco-Jaworski claims that she's already "semi-retired." And with her cousin, champion equestrienne Toni Leviste now 32, she notes the sport needs more young blood.

"I'm now focusing on teaching and training young riders," said Cojuangco-Jaworski, who, as a last-minute replacement, helped the Philippines capture a gold in the showjumping team event in last December's 23rd Southeast Asian Games with Leviste, Joker Arroyo and Juan Ramon Lanza.

"We need to encourage more young people to get into the sport," she says. "Like (17-year-old) Joker Arroyo, we were training her for the SEA Games and she did very well."

Cojuangco-Jaworski says she wasn't even suppose to compete in the recent SEA Games.

"I didn't train for it," says the veteran rider. "But six weeks before the competition, one of our members had to back out, so I joined the team."

But "coming out of retirement" seems always easy for someone who practically grew up riding horses.

Although quite unusual for girls her age, Cojuangco-Jaworski already showed interest in the sport at 8 years old, even though she only took formal riding lessons when was already 10.

Among her notable achievements were gold-medal finishes in the individual event in the 2001 CSI-B New Delhi and in team events in the 1995 Asia-Pacific Equestrian Games and the 1992 Asian Showjumping Championships in Chinese-Taipei. She also bagged the Philippine Equestrian Federation Rider of the Year title in 2001.

Cojuangco-Jaworski's biggest triumph, of course, was her first-place finish with horse Rustic Rouge in the individual showjumping event of the 2002 Asian Games held in Busan, South Korea.

It was the Philippines' first ever gold medal in equestrian in the Asiad. And since that historic win, RP team members are now often tabbed as potential gold-medal winners in regional meets.

So hopes are high again when the Philippines competes in the 2006 edition in Doha, Qatar, this December.

But will the reigning Asian Games champion be back?

"We now have several promising riders in the country," said Mikee, a former movie star and now wife of Pasig Rep. Robert "Dodot" Jaworski Jr., with whom she has two sons.

"But as long as it's for the country, I'm always ready."

UST nine overpowers La Salle; UP scores

POWERHOUSE REIGNING CHAMPION UNIversity of Santo Tomas and last season's runner-up University of the Philippines scored contrasting victories Sunday at the start of the UAAP baseball tournament at the Rizal Memorial ballpark.

The Tigers clobbered the La Salle Green Archers, 12-2, via the abbreviated 10-run rule in five innings, while the Maroons needed two extra innings to subdue the Adamson Falcons, 6-5.

Al-denn Lozada's grand slam homer in the fifth highlighted UST's victory, sending a strong message the España-based clouters are tough to dethrone.

Baseball action resumes Thursday, also at the Vito Cruz ballpark with the La Salle-Ateneo match opening the schedule at 8 a.m. Other games pit tournament host National University against UP and UST against Adamson.

Lady Archers win

In tennis, also Sunday at the Rizal Racket Club in Pasig City, women's defending champion La Salle ripped UP, 4-1.

Last season's MVP Michelle Panis led the Lady Archers' onslaught with a 7-5, 6-2 win over Karen Reyes.

Sherry Rose Ching and Lourdes Binoya made it 2-0 with a 6-1, 5-7, 6-3 victory over Janna Songco and Roma Agsalud, before Mary Ann Luy made it an unbeatable 3-0 for the Taft-Avenue-based netters with a 6-0, 6-3 whipping of Creslita Gulusino.

The State U players prevented a shutout in the second doubles as Micah Valenzuela and Ana Ysabel Soriano defeated Krissy Alina and Nisha Hemlani, 5-7, 2-6.

Kat Flores completed the La Salle rout by blasting Venise Culaba, 6-1, 6-0.

Santo Tomas blanked Ateneo, 5-0, in the other women's match.

'We prepared hard'

Men's action saw the Archers making it a double for La Salle with a 5-0 crushing of the University of the East Warriors and the UP Maroons clobbering the Ateneo Eagles, 3-1.

Nico Riego de Dios (first singles), Yanic Guba and JR Moreno (first doubles), Miguel Pantua (second singles), Ed Angelo Diez and Pereme Alina (second doubles) and John Rick de Castro (third singles) combined for the masterful La Salle shutout.

"We prepared hard this season because we really want to regain the crown," said De La Salle coach Roland Kraut. "I told my players that we should not leave nothing to chance if we want to win the title."

Santo Tomas frustrated La Salle in its title-retention bid, 2-1, in last year's final.

Pava in deep bind for hosting GP legs

By Marc Anthony Reyes

INTEREST IN WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL may have picked up following the staging of world Grand Prix legs here, but the Philippine Amateur Volleyball Association is paying a high price for it.

Pava president Roger Banzuela said his association owes the international body (FIVB) $100,000, or about P5.3 million, representing the bond for the country's hosting of a leg of the women's volleyball GP last year and another GP leg two years ago.

Banzuela has ruled out the possibility of Manila hosting another leg this year, even as he pleaded with the FIVB to give Pava more time to pay its arrears on an installment basis.

"We are not yet suspended," Banzuela told the INQUIRER. "In fact, I was the one who wrote FIVB to give us enough time to pay our account."

Proof of Pava's good standing, according to Banzuela, is Manila's hosting in May of the Asian Women's Club Championships.

The Pava chief said the country failed to pay the $75,000 bond for hosting last year's GP, a regular part of the Pava's calendar featuring some of the best women's volleyball clubs in the world.

Pava has also yet to pay a balance of $25,000 for the GP leg it hosted two years ago.

Banzuela explained that the event's organizers backed out at the last minute last year, while organizers of the 2004 meet failed to get sponsors.

The report that the Pava has been suspended, he added, may have been spawned by his statement of a possible suspension during the referees congress in Baguio City last Dec. 27.

"I told everybody that we might get suspended, and that's where the whole story came from," said Banzuela, himself a former member of the national team in his heyday. "We are still not suspended but we just might be if we fail to pay up."

He added that FIVB had given Pava six months to settle its obligations.

Interest in women's volleyball perked up after the country hosted the legs of the world Grand Prix.

PAUL Brian Rosario celebrates his victory in individual skeet in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games. EGAY MONTANA

Salute to Filipino SEAG, World Shoot medalists

FILIPINO SHOOTERS WHO CAPTURED medals in the World Shoot XIV and the recent 23rd Southeast Asian Games will be feted by the organizers of the 2006 Defense & Sporting Arms Show on Jan. 12 to 16 at the Megatrade Hall 2 of SM Megamall B in Mandaluyong City.

To be honored for their SEA Games feats are gold medal winners Jun Angeles in practical shotgun, Paul Brian Rosario in individual skeet and Patricio Bernardo, Darius Hizon and Paul Brian Rosario in the team skeet; silver medalists Dr. Ariel Santos in practical shotgun; Marty Llorito in practical pistol; Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla in rapid fire pistol and the trap team composed of Jethro Dionisio, Jaime Recio and Eric Ang; and bronze medalists Eric Ang and Aimee Gana in men's and women's individual trap.

Filipino shooters who won medals in the last World Shoot XIV held in Guayaquil, Ecuador, were modified division world champion Jeufro "Jag" Lejano, senior production winner Daniel Torrevillas, modified division shoot-off champion Nelson Uycongco, revolver class fourth placer Phillipp Chua, and the Modified team winner composed of Jeufro Lejano, Nelson Uycongco, Lyndon Biraogo and Joseph Edward Sy.

The 2006 Defense & Sporting Arms Show is organized by the Association of Firearms and Ammunition Dealers of the Philippines and managed by TradeShow International Inc.

ALL NEW
CARRYBOY®
The Name of Quality and Design
Super Carryboy Sport Lid
2nd Generation Pick-up Bed Covers
GSR
Integrated Sport Lid and Roll Bar
NO DRILLING
Top-up Motorized Super Lid
SM
Full Open
Open
Close
SLX
Perfect Match SLX Super Lid with CB706 Roll Bar
CARRYBOY PHILIPPINES INC. Sole Authorized Distributor of Genuine Accessories by Carryboy Thailand
No. 94 Banawe corner Macopa Sts., Quezon City Surf our website at www.carryboyphil.com
Visit our Showroom or call
740-0525 or 30

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Penta/Tri)—Majestic Queen 6. Centerfold 3, High Spirit 8, Stone Face 2. Dona Nene 5.

Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Control Freak 4. Dream Cross 1, Mojito 3, Sacred Hall 6.

Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Blue Face 1. Hurry Putter 2. Fine Offer 9. Kalashnikov 3.

Race 4—(Qrt/Tri)—El Cid 5. Kawiliwili 7. Mina Sa Isla 1, Sir Olizon 8.

Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Tini Bambini 6. Kumpirmado 1. Mercurian 10. Powerhouse 5.

Race 6—(Penta/Tri)—Worth Ur While 8. Take a Strike 12, Uncle 5. Revelation 10. Valentine Dancer 3.

Race 7—(Qrt/Tri)—Golden Issue 8. Desert Breeze 1. Hail Medium 5, Brazen Truth 1.

Race 8—(Penta/Tri)—Maximus 9. Shy Girl 8, Gamby's Attack 6, Epic Energy 12, American Beauty 10.

Race 9—(S6/Qrt/Tri)—Letshaveaparty 11. Ichiro 5, Piroutte 1. Rebound 7. Aminin 8, Yao Man 14.

Anand mentor Cabrido dies

NATIONAL MASTER VICTOR CABRIDO, THE FILipino mentor of former world champion Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand of India, died from a heart attack last Friday. His remains lie in state at the Funeral Oro on G. Tuazon Street near Balic-Balic in Quezon City. Interment will be announced later.

'Ten or more' sports eyed . . .

From page A17

Before the Southeast Asian Games—which the Philippines ruled convincingly last month—Ramirez said that the 2006 PSC budget was only P27 million.

After the overall romp, Bacolod Rep. Monico Puentevella started lobbying in Congress for a PSC budget of P250 million, an amount which Ramirez said he can defend before the senators.

"We have (prepared) a P250 million detail of expenses," Ramirez said. "We really don't know how much our budget will be (for 2006), but I am very sure that it will not be P27 million anymore."

Meanwhile, national coaches finally received their incentives from the PSC yesterday, while SEAG record breakers Arneil Ferreira (hammer throw) and Henry Dagmil (long jump) will get their additional cash bonuses today.

Long distance runner Eduardo Buenavista, who set a new record in the Vietnam SEAG in 2003, will also get his long overdue incentive.

ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Emmie G. Velarde
Text us your feedback: inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

DID YOU KNOW...

SOUTH BORDER FANS IN BAGABERDE, PASIG ON FRIDAY WERE stunned when Sharon Cuneta joined the boys onstage. She sang a few lines of "Rainbow," the band's hit from her 2003 movie "Crying Ladies." With a Handycam, Cuneta's daughter KC recorded the impromptu number during Mega's birthday bash held right after the taping of a TV special at nearby Ultra.

Picking MMFF's Most Gender-Sensitive film

By Anna Leah Sarabia
Contributor

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

FINALLY, the local movie industry is learning about gender. Quezon City Mayor Sonny Belmonte has attached some funding and his good name to make sure people remember that media can promote gender balance. Through its Gender and Development Resource Coordinating Office, the QC government has been giving the Most Gender-Sensitive Film Award during the Metro Manila Film Festival in the last three years. It is probably the only award of its kind in any major film festival anywhere in the world.

Women's NGOs and some women in the media can take the credit for pushing gender issues to the forefront, despite the machismo in government and in the media workplace. As of 2004, it is estimated that about 70 percent of Filipinos have become aware of women's rights. The challenge is how to make this come across naturally in movies.

In "Enteng Kabisote 2," the hero has to promise his wife, the fairy princess Faye, that he will treat her as an equal partner in battle so that he can join her in the fight against Satana. In the end, however, she and her female fairy family—with all their powers—still rely on the mortal man and his half-fairy son to help save Engkantasia from male demons. Why does the main villain have to be female? So that Magenta and her sister can show off their powers. Plus, it would be un-gentlemanly for traditional Enteng to fight a woman, even if she's Satana.

A male hero, in order to be deemed thoroughly manly, should have a worthy male opponent, just like Exodus has Haring Bagulbol. Of course, he succeeds in his first quest to tame four elementals—two females, plus a male child and a

PICKING/ A2-2

THE MEN of "Blue Moon": It's okay to cry your heart out.

ALWINA, heroine in "Mulawin," is "not a pushover."

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
6th floor Shangrila Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
Telephone: 633.2227 / 6337851 loc. 171
1 (DOLBY) CHRONICLES OF NARNIA GP
2 (DOLBY) CHRONICLES OF NARNIA GP
3 (DOLBY) FAMILY STONE PG13
4 (DOLBY) KING KONG PG13
PREMIERE
(DOLBY) CHRONICLES OF NARNIA GP

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DDS) ST. ANGE
2 (SDDS) KING KONG
3 (DTS) THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
4 GOLD (DTS) FAMILY STONE
5 GOLD (SDDS) THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
6 GOLD (SDDS) THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
7 GOLD (DOLBY) DON'T GIVE UP ON US
8 (DOLBY SP EX) DON'T GIVE UP ON US
9 (DOLBY SP EX) ENTENG KABISOTE -2
10 (DOLBY SP EX) AKO LEGAL WIFE

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) FAMILY STONE
2 (DOLBY) CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
3 (DOLBY) CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
4 (DOLBY) KING KONG

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 KING KONG
2 (DTS) DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 (DOLBY) THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
4 EXODUS

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
2 (DOLBY) THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
3 (DTS) ENTENG KABISOTE-2
4 EXODUS

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 (DOLBY) KING KONG

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 AKO LEGAL WIFE
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 (DOLBY) EXODUS
4 (DTS) KING KONG

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 KING KONG
2 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
3 (DOLBY) DON'T GIVE UP ON US

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan)
1 KING KONG
2 MULAWIN

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 KING KONG

Blue Wave MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 (DOLBY) THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2 (DOLBY) KING KONG
3 (DOLBY) THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
4 (DOLBY) DON'T GIVE UP ON US

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228
1 (DOLBY) KING KONG
2 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 EXODUS
5 ST. ANGE

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 KING KONG
4 ENTENG KABISOTE-2

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
2 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
3 ENTENG KABISOTE-2

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2 KING KONG

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) EXODUS
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 (DTS ES) THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
4 ENTENG KABISOTE-2

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
2 AKO LEGAL WIFE
3 (DOLBY) THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
4 (DTS) ENTENG KABISOTE-2

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489
1 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
2 AKO LEGAL WIFE
3 (DOLBY) THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
4 (DTS) THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 ENTENG KABISOTE-2
2 SHAKE RATTLE & ROLL

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
3 DONT GIVE UP ON US
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) NARNIA
5 KING KONG

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433994
1 ENTENG KABISOTE -2
2 DONT GIVE UP ON US
3 KING KONG
4 NARNIA

NE Pacific Mall Cabanatuan, telephone No. (044) 600-3025
1 AKO LEGAL WIFE
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 ENTENG KABISOTE -2

Cinemagic Pacific Mall
(Lucena City) tel. 6605271
1 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
2 AKO LEGAL WIFE
3 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
4 KING KONG

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 KING KONG
2 ENTENG KABISOTE-2

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) KING KONG
2 EXODUS
3 ENTENG KABISOTE-2
4 (DTS) DON'T GIVE UP ON US

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) KING KONG
2 EXODUS
3 (DTS) THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
4 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
5 ENTENG KABISOTE-2

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 KUTOB
4 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 EXODUS
2 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

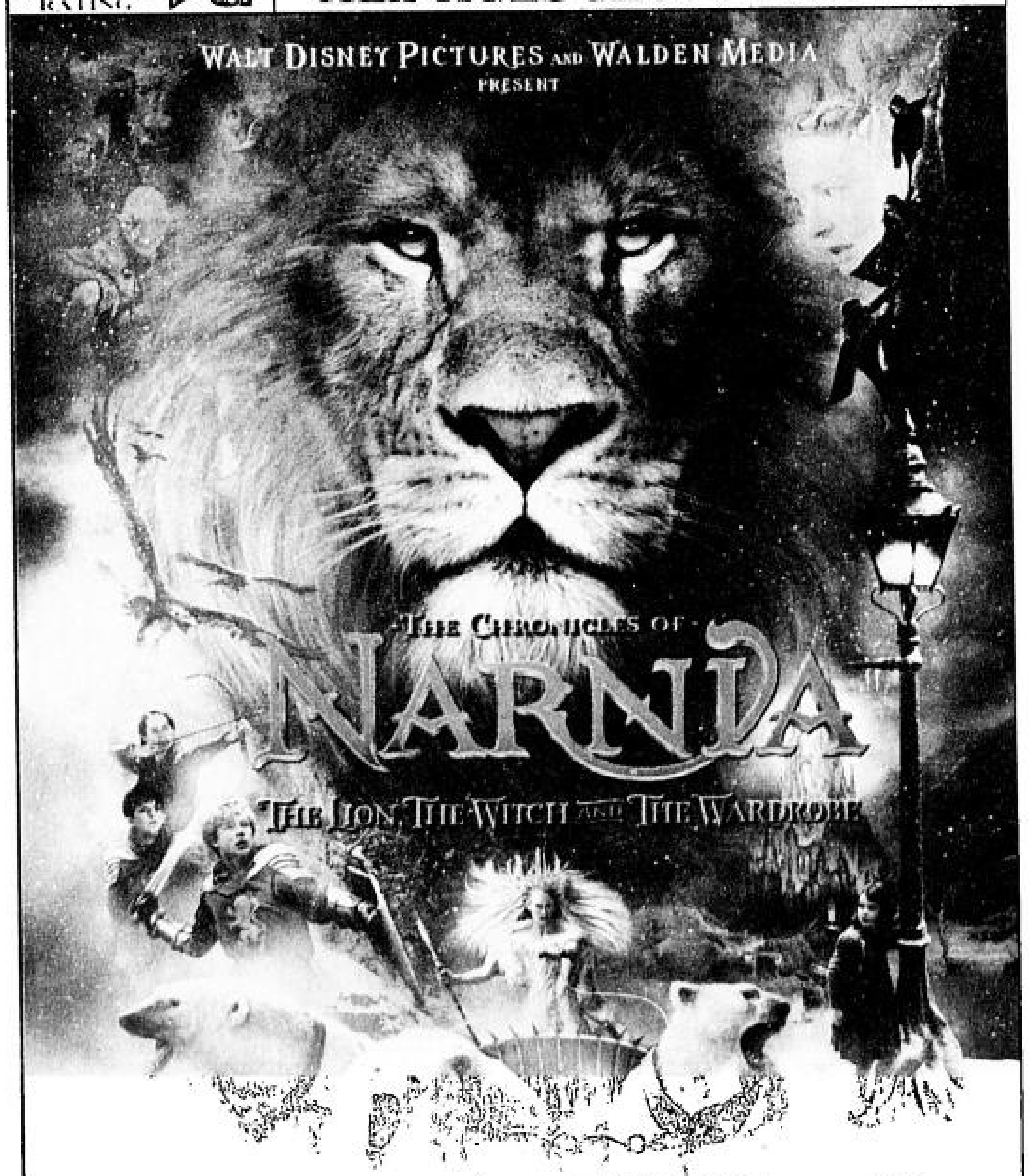
All the movies you want to see on the big screen
NOW SHOWING at the Star Group of Malls

starmall EDSA - SHAW
Tel No 726 6150
3: Dont Give Up On Us
4: Narnia
5: King Kong

METROPOLIS ALABANG star
Tel No 850 4285
1 : Enteng Kabisote 2
2: Dont Give Up On Us
3: King Kong
4: Narnia

Everyday Family Day at StarMalls !
MARK HERRAS LIVE at METROPOLIS ALABANG on JAN 8 SUNDAY 4pm
DENNIS TRILLO MALL TOUR at METROPOLIS ALABANG on JAN 15 SUNDAY 4pm
LATIN & RnB GROOVES. GREAT FOOD at CUBA LIBRE BAR at 2nd Flr STARMALL EDSA
NEW KTV ROOMS at MARK'S KTV METROPOLIS & STARMALL LAS PINAS

NOW SHOWING
IN OVER 150 THEATERS NATIONWIDE
MTRCB RATING G ALL AGES ARE ADMITTED



WALT DISNEY PICTURES AND WALDEN MEDIA
PRESENT
THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE

THE BELOVED MASTERPIECE COMES TO LIFE
Narnia.com
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

PG-13 Children 12 years and below will be admitted if accompanied by an adult.
FROM ACADEMY AWARD WINNING DIRECTOR PETER JACKSON
4th HIT WEEK!
BACK IN THEATERS DUE TO INSISTENT PUBLIC DEMAND!!!
KING KONG IS A GIGANTIC ACHIEVEMENT, HANDS DOWN THE BIGGEST SPECTACLE OF THE YEAR!!!
- Vives Anunciacion, Inquirer Libre
KING KONG
NAOMI WATTS JACK BLACK ADRIEN BRODY
NOW SHOWING NATIONWIDE
AN EPIC ADVENTURE CLASSIC FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!
Solar Entertainment Corporation

Shame on show biz folk!

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

JUST ASKING:

Kristine Hermosa was spotted waiting impatiently for someone at Starbucks Morato on Wednesday night. After an hour or so, a gorgeous guy joined her, a dead-ringer for her ex, **Diether Ocampo**. Maybe it was just coincidence, or does **Kristine** have a Diet hangover?

Is it true that **Luis Manzano** asked **Pauleen Luna** to send feelers to GMA 7 that he wants to become a *Kapuso*? He is said to be smitten with GMA's pretty young things—**Jennylyn Mercado, Nadine Samonte** and **Katrina Halili**. Perhaps he said that in jest to **Pauleen** since she was a "*Kapamilya*" like him before she made the big switch. Besides if **Luis** really wants to win the "*puso*" of any of the *Kapuso* girls, he can easily do so. The battle of the networks does not preclude inter-channel romance or is there an unwritten rule about that?

Zsa Zsa Padilla and **Dolphy** were the picture of a happy couple when he escorted her as she received her Metro Manila Filmfest Best Actress award for "Ako Legal Wife." Wouldn't it have been cute if at the end of her acceptance speech **Zsa Zsa** turned to **Dolphy** and asked, "So,when will I be your legal wife?"

Not again!

As a true child of show business, I am saddened by the bickerings over the Metro Manila Film Festival 2005. Here we go again. What a way to start the Year of the Dog! Biting... fighting like "*askals*"... howling... are we just gonna let show biz go to the dogs?

I grew up in show biz, a world I've learned to love because my mom spent the best years of her life in it. That's why when something shakes up the biz, it hits me where it hurts. Times like this, I wish my mom were still around to help me make sense of the madness. I can almost hear her say one of her original lines, "*Sa gusot, may lusot.*"

Through this column, I want to give something back to the business that sent me to good schools and put food on our table. In my own little way I hope I can be a conduit, a mirror and a bridge. The faces I see fighting on TV (Mother **Lily**, Tita **Annabel Rama** et al...) are the same faces I've seen up close laughing with my mom. They all love this business as fiercely as I do, I'm sure. So aren't we all supposed to be on the same side? Trite as it sounds, we should stop fighting with each other and instead fight for each other.

The MMFF has become a Pinoy Yuletide tradition. Every Christmas Day, moviegoers spend a portion of their holiday bonus to watch the entries, to patronize local movies to the exclusion of all others. Shame on us show biz folk for making the public's support seem in vain!

Thanks, Aga

Got a text from my dear friend **Aga Muhlach** about my previous column, "26 wishes for RP show biz." His message: "You said it right, my friend. *Tama lahat.*" If I may add, I wish more show biz folk were like **Aga**. His heart is really for the biz and what's good for it. No need for awards to prove that. Cheers to you, "Morning!"

(E-mail wateringhole-shangrila@yahoo.com)

NOW SHOWING

MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13 | STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP.

The first documented case
of Demonic Disturbance
in Europe
VIRGINIE LEDOYEN
SAINT ANGE
BASED ON A TRUE STORY

ARANETA CENTER

Gateway ALIMALL FarmersPlaza

THE ONLY CINEPLEX IN THE COUNTRY — Gateway CINEPLEX*10 — FULL STADIUM SEATING

KING KONG 12:00/2:20/3:40/6:00/7:20/9:40

DON'T GIVE UP ON US 12:20/2:40/5:00/7:20/9:40

BLUE MOON 12:30/2:40/5:00/7:20/9:40

GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA

AKO, LEGAL WIFE 1:40/4:20/7:00/9:40

FAMILY STONE 12:20/2:40/5:00/7:20/9:40

NARNIA 11:50/1:10/2:40/4:00 5:30/6:50/8:20/9:40

NARNIA 12:30/3:20/6.10/9:00

DOLBY DIGITAL-EX

ST. ANGE 12:50/3.00/5:10/7:20/9:30

ONLY P120 ADMISSION GLOBE PLATINUM P240/P299

ALIMALL CINEMAS

DON'T GIVE UP ON US 1.30/3.50/6:10/8.30

NARNIA 12:00/2:40/5:20/8:00

KING KONG 1:10/4:50/8:30

ST. ANGE 1:55/4:05/6:15/8:26

EXODUS

DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

For ticket inquiries, please call TicketNet at 911-5555 or log on to www.ticketnet.com.ph

ARANETA COLISEUM

WORLD SLASHER CUP
JANUARY 17, 19 & 21

BACKSTREET BOYS
NEVER GONE TOUR
JANUARY 20 FRIDAY/8PM

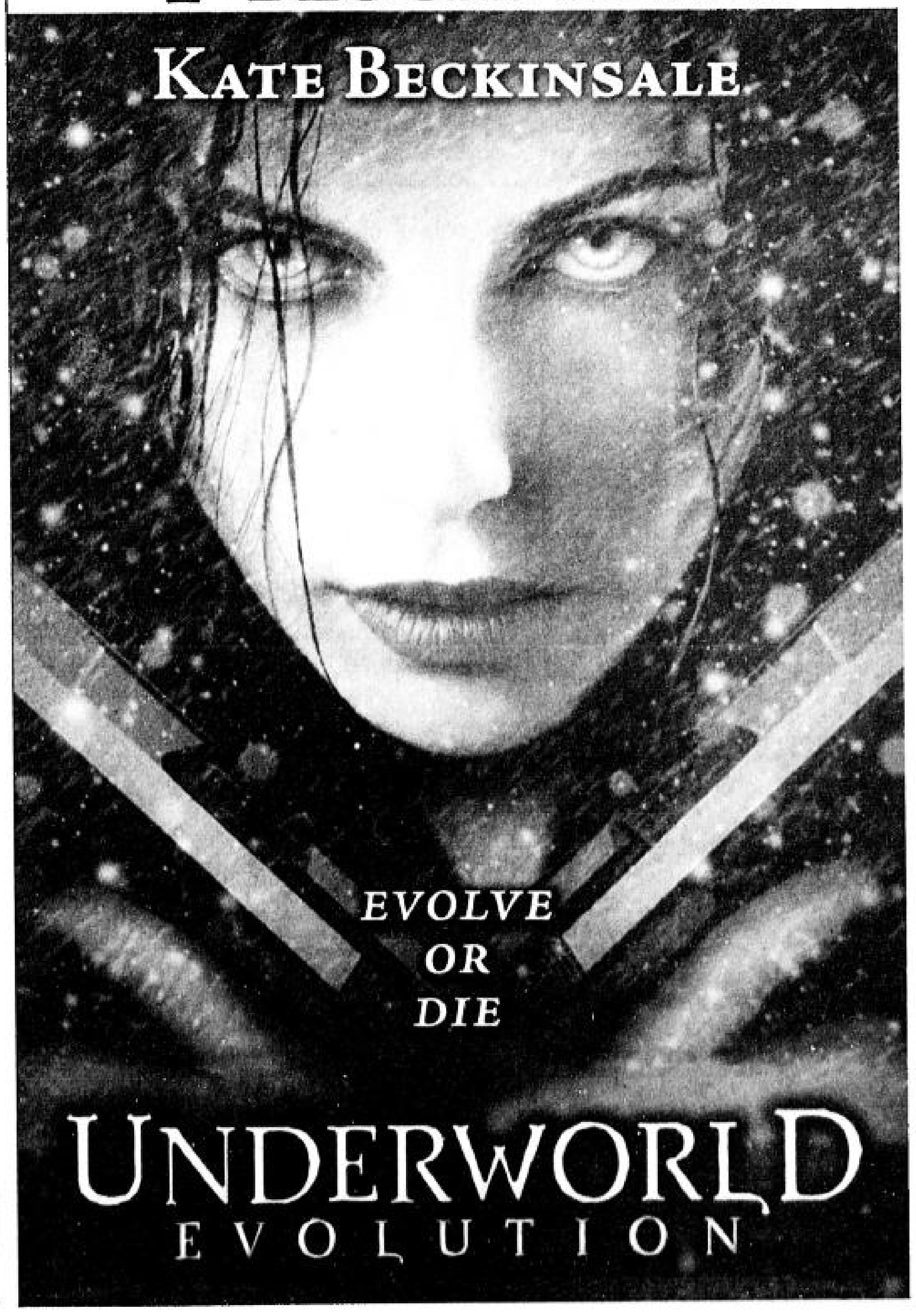
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or parent.

INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED FILM HITS MANILA ON JANUARY 11!
WINNER GRAND PRIX Brussels International Film Festival
WINNER GRAND PRIX Montreal Image+Nation International Film Festival
WINNER BEST FILM 19th Torino Festival Internazionale
Fist Of A Man.
Heart Of A Woman.
An Ekachai Uekrongtham Film
Beautiful Boxer
based on a true story
WINNER BEST ACTOR Supannahongsa Award Thai Academy Awards
WINNER JURY PRIZE Skeive Filmer Norway International Film Festival
WINNER Gehitu Sebastian Award San Sebastian International Film Festival
VIVA
www.viva.com.ph
www.beautifulboxer.com

OPENS JANUARY 18

THE FIRST BIG MOVIE FOR 2006

THE SEQUEL TO THE #1 BLOCKBUSTER

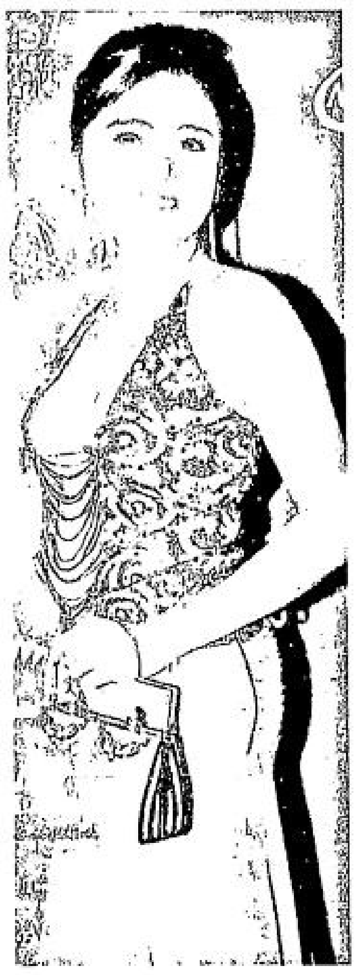

KATE BECKINSALE
EVOLVE
OR
DIE
UNDERWORLD
EVOLUTION

ENTERTAIN

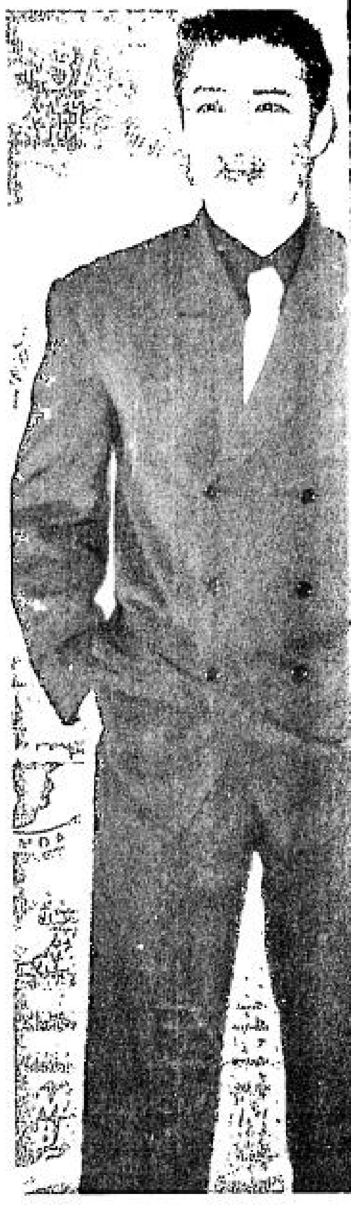
Scene stealers a

AIAI De Las Alas' "Ako Legal Wife" headdress.

MAKE OR BREAK HAIR: Young Mariz Ricketts; rush-out-with-t look for winner Cherrie Pie Pica



TAKE A RISK. Oh, to be young and shapely like Angelica Jones. *"Lagot ka sa kuya mo."*



MATINEE idol-handsome Mark Fernandez.

Picking MMI

male centaur—and they pool the powers to help him save the human city of Bantayan from ogres and da creatures.

"Terrorist Hunter" has an elderly soldier and his team of five men and a woman, on a mission to rescue the daughter of a general from kidnap-for-ransom terrorists hired by an Aryan-looking man in an Arab headdress.

Better attitude

"Mulawin" has a much better atti tude towards men and women, in this case he-birds and she-birds. Al though the directors and write couldn't help playing up the role of Aguiluz, Alwina is no pushover. In order for her to join him in save the Mulawin race, she makes Aguiluz ac cept the other he-bird that she about to marry. They enlist the help of Tres Aves, two males and one fe male, who are known for their un usual strength and power.

Unlike in "Enteng," "Exodus" and "Terrorist," the fight scenes in "Mu lawin" are more androgynous: sex role stereotyping and macho lines are diminished.

In the films where more women take center stage, the judges for the award wondered why, with such ex perienced and eloquent actors in leading roles, treatment of their characters was almost misogynist

For one, "Ako Legal Wife," fourth in the "Mano Po" series, was such a disappointment coming after last year's entry, which almost tied with "Aishite Imasu" for Most Gender Sensitive Film. "Legal Wife" tries to be a satire on the dishonesty of ar ranged marriages. But it ends up laughing at women's struggles to survive the trauma of men's lies in fidelities and abuse, making much of how they compete for the affection, attention and money of men "Mourning Girls" makes women vic tims look even more ridiculous.

Wink-wink

The question to ask is whether such films actually promote conc

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

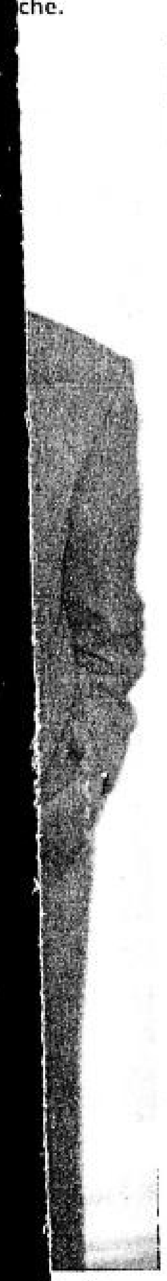
t MMFF awards

boy cut for
ne-rollers
che.

INJUSTICE, she cried. Lily Monteverde's triumphant smile would vanish before the night—no, the hour—was over.

DARK horse Rica Peralejo wins in the sparkle department.

PHOTOS BY RODEL ROTONI



Anthony

BARBIE Almabis did not win anything.

FF's...

From page A2-1

binage and adultery. They make light of women's tragic situation, and wink as their husbands pursue sexual conquests. We wonder, how would today's directors treat a woman philanderer?

And just as cat fights are used to color stories of playboys, the screams of women victims and the cackling of female villains—no matter how comic—have been the stuff of local horror films. We wonder how a sensible female director would treat fright films.

"Kutob" was a powerful production, with winners for Best Actor, Best Editing and Best Director. The lead and supporting actresses portrayed their characters credibly. The downside is, the cause of Lemuel's psychosis: blame is laid at the doorstep of his controlling old maid aunt. Couldn't the writer have been at least a little more scientific if he has to pull out another hateful woman stereotype?

No, the comedies and horror entries were not too funny for women.

Why 'Blue Moon'?

This is why "Mulawin" almost stood out as first runner-up, and "Lagot ka sa Kuya Ko," for all its fragile story line and forced anti-drugs and anti-smoking inserts, still came in a distant third.

How did the jurors rate this year's awardee, "Blue Moon"? In the words of Mayor Belmonte: "This film grapples with the issue of masculinity in Philippine society, masculine relationships that are seldom shown in [local] cinema. It affirms that... it is okay to cry your heart out, to show and accept your vulnerabilities, and to search for your soul. The film also... understands why [some] women have to leave [the people] they love in order to recover the souls that they may have lost in fusing with the other."

(Anna Leah Sarabia, founder and executive director of the Women's Media Circle, was one of five jurors for the Most Gender-Sensitive Film Award.)

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City
☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

FAMILY STONE PG13 12:30,2:55,5:20, 7:45,10:10	CHRONICLES OF NARNIA GP 2:00,5:00,8:00	CHRONICLES OF NARNIA GP 12:00,3:00,6:00,9:00
KING KONG PG13 2:40,6:20,10:00	DON'T GIVE UP ON US PG13 12:20,2:45,5:10, 7:35,10:00	CHRONICLES OF NARNIA GP 1:10,4:10,7:10,10:10

MOVIES AND SCREENING SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE: FOR VERIFICATION CALL 898-1440/41

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City
For inquiries, call.
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1 FAMILY STONE
1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00
PG-13

2 CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30
GP

3 CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2:10, 5:10, 8:10, 11:10
GP

4 KINGKONG
12:40, 4:20, 8:00, 11:00
GP

SHANG CINEPLEX

① CHRONICLES OF NARNIA MTRCB GP
12 30, 3 20, 6 10, 9 00PM

② CHRONICLES OF NARNIA MTRCB GP
1 50, 4 40, 7 30, 10 20 LMF

③ FAMILY STONE
MTRCB PG-13
12.00, 2.30, 5.00, 7:30, 10:00

④ KING KONG
MTRCB PG-13
11 00, 2 40, 6 20, 10 00 LMF

PREMIERE THEATRE
CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
MTRCB GP 12 00, 2 50, 5 40, 8 30 LMF
Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

Catch the Cineplex Special
A Blockbuster Gift for All Seasons
The Shang Cineplex Gift Certificates
·Treat your family and friends to a thrilling movie experience only at the Shang.
Cinema Treats - for Cinemas 1,2,3 and 4
Premiere Rewards - for the Premiere Theatre

Call 633-7851, loc. 171 or 633-2227
633-4735 for more details.
Shangri-La Plaza

GREENHILLS CINEMAS
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA
THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1 NARNIA
GP
12:15, 3:10,
6:05, 9:00

CINEMA 2 KING KONG
PG13
11:00, 2:40,
6:20, 10:00

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

PROMENADE
GREENHILLS
...a dinetertainment for all!
NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 3 FAMILY STONE
PG13
10:45, 1:00, 3:15,
5:30, 7:45, 10:00

CINEMA 4 NARNIA
GP
11:15, 2:10, 5:05,
8:00, 10:50

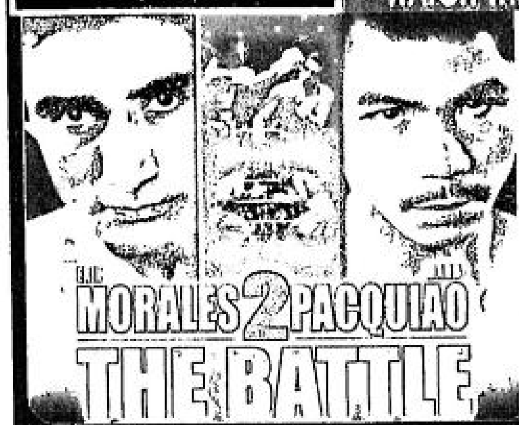
CINEMA 5 NARNIA
GP
10:30, 1:20, 4:15,
7:10, 10:05

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM

January 27, 2005	JED MADELA	9PM
February 3 & 4	NINA&NYOY	9PM

FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635



CALL NOW* 833-9999
SM CINEMA movietime
NOW SHOWING
Box Office News Movie Schedules Live Events
SM CINEMA CENTERStage
FOR INQUIRIES
8311000 loc. 2671,2673,2682,2691

OPENS TODAY

THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE
THE BELOVED MASTERPIECE COMES TO LIFE

Enter the magical land of Narnia
Now open in all SM Cinemas nationwide

LIVE-LARGE SM CINEMA
WATCH THE EXPLOSIVE REMATCH AT SM CINEMA!

MORALES 2 PACQUIAO
THE BATTLE

Manny **"Pacman"** Pacquiao
vs
Erik **"El Terrible"** Morales

LIVE VIA SATELLITE WITH NO COMMERCIAL BREAK

JANUARY 22, 2006
(Sunday) 8:00 a.m.
Fairview, Manila, Megamall, Southmall
Pampanga, Cebu

Megamall - 6331901	Manila - 5239240
Fairview - 4176811	Pampanga - 9637681
Southmall - 8066888	Cebu - 2313876

GUARANTEED SEATS

THE PODIUM 633-8976
1 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
11:15FS/11:45MF/02:50/05:55
08:30LFS/09:00LMF/11:35END
2 KING KONG
12:40FS/01:10MF
08:00LFS/08:30LMF/11:40END

MEGAMALL
1 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
11:00FS/10:45MF/01:50/04:55
07:30LFS/08.00LMF/10:35END

CEBU (032) 231-3876
1 KING KONG
10:50FS/11:00MF/02:30/06:00
09:10LFS/09:30LMF/12:35END
2 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
12:00FS/12:30MF/03:30/06:30
09:05LFS/09:30LMF/12:05END
3 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
11:20FS/11:30MF/01:30/03:30/05:30/07:30
09:20LFS/09:30LMF/11:20END

METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
1 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 EXODUS
4 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
5 FAMILY STONE
6 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
7 ST. ANGE
8 AKO LEGAL WIFE
9 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
10 KING KONG
11 MULAWINTHE MOVIE
12 BLUE MOON

SM CITY STA. MESA
1 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
3 KING KONG
4 AKO LEGAL WIFE
5 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
6 MULAWIN THE MOVIE
7 FAMILY STONE
8 EXODUS
9 BLUE MOON
10 ST. ANGE

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
4 KING KONG

SM VALENZUELA
1 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
3 KING KONG
4 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 MULAWINTHE MOVIE
2 ST. ANGE
3 KING KONG
4 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
5 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
6 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
7 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
8 EXODUS
9 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
10 FAMILY STONE
11 AKO LEGAL WIFE
12 BLUE MOON

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 KING KONG
4 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
5 EXODUS
6 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
7 AKO LEGAL WIFE
8 ST. ANGE
9 FAMILY STONE
10 RESERVED

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
2 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
1 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
4 FAMILY STONE
5 BLUE MOON
6 AKO LEGAL WIFE
7 ST. ANGE
8 KING KONG

SM CITY MANILA
1 KING KONG
2 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
3 SHAKE, RATTLE & ROLL 2K5
4 EXODUS
5 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
6 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
7 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
8 FAMILY STONE
9 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
10 AKO LEGAL WIFE
11 BLUE MOON
12 ST. ANGE

SM SAN LAZARO
1 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2 FAMILY STONE
3 KING KONG
4 BLUE MOON
5 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
6 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2 AKO LEGAL WIFE
3 KING KONG
4 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
5 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
6 ENTENG KABISOTE 2

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2 KING KONG
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 ENTENG KABISOTE 2

SM MOLINO
1 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
3 KING KONG
4 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

SM CITY BACOOR
1 ST. ANGE
2 FAMILY STONE
3 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
4 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
5 KING KONG
6 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
7 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
8 EXODUS

SM CITY MARILAO
1 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
4 KING KONG

SM CITY DASMARINAS
1 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2 EXODUS
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 ENTENG KABISOTE 2

SM CITY LUCENA
1 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
3 KING KONG
4 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
4 EXODUS

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 KING KONG
2 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
3 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
4 AKO LEGAL WIFE
5 BLOOD FIST
6 EXODUS
7 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
8 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA

SM CITY ILOILO
1 EXODUS
2 MULAWIN THE MOVIE
3 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
4 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
5 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
6 KING KONG
7 BLOOD FIST
8 AKO LEGAL WIFE

SM CITY DAVAO
1 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2 KING KONG
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 EXODUS
5 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
6 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 BLUE MOON

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

MOVIEWORLD

CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA
632-9118

1 The Chronicles of NARNIA • THX
2 The Chronicles of NARNIA
3 ST. ANGE
4 THE FAMILY STONE
5 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
6 KING KONG
7 BLUE MOON
8 EXODUS
9 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
10 AKO LEGAL WIFE

ERMITA
536-7809 to 12

1 The Chronicles of NARNIA
2 AKO LEGAL WIFE
BLUE MOON
3 ST. ANGE
4 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
EXODUS
5 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
6 THE FAMILY STONE
7 KING KONG

METRO EAST
682-8193 • 682-8199

1 KING KONG
2 THE FAMILY STONE
3 The Chronicles OF NARNIA
4 ST. ANGE
5 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
6 EXODUS
7 The Chronicles OF NARNIA
8 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

NOVALICHES
935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 KING KONG
2 The Chronicles OF NARNIA
3 THE FAMILY STONE
4 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
5 BLUE MOON
6 The Chronicles of NARNIA
7 EXODUS
8 ENTENG KABISOTE 2

CITISQUARE MALABON
288-2575

1 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER
687-5378

1 The Chronicles OF NARNIA
2 ST. ANGE
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 THE FAMILY STONE

CHECK THIS OUT ▸▸

ROBINSONS CINEMAS Novaliches

Now oPen!

Cinema 1 KING KONG
Cinema 2 The Chronicles of NARNIA
Cinema 3 THE FAMILY STONE
Cinema 4 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
Cinema 5 BLUE MOON
Cinema 6 NARNIA
Cinema 7 EXODUS
Cinema 8 ENTENG KABISOTE 2

STA. ROSA
(049) 837-0907

1 The Chronicles of NARNIA
2 The Chronicles of NARNIA
3 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
4 KING KONG
5 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

LIPA
(043) 757-3864
(043) 312-5870

1 The Chronicles of NARNIA
2 The Chronicles of NARNIA
3 KING KONG
4 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
5 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

DASMARIÑAS
(046) 852-2125
(046) 416-4332

1 The Chronicles of NARNIA
2 MULAWIN the MOVIE
3 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
4 The Chronicles of NARNIA
5 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

ANGELES
(045) 892-2348

1 The Chronicles of NARNIA
2 KING KONG
3 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
4 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

IMUS
(046) 875-3838
(046) 471-8188

1 The Chronicles of NARNIA
2 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
3 EXODUS
4 ST. ANGE
5 THE FAMILY STONE
6 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

STARMILLS
(045) 875-1927
(045) 961-5270

1 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
2 EXODUS
3 KING KONG
4 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
5 The Chronicles of NARNIA
6 The Chronicles of NARNIA

BACOLOD
(034) 441-0453
(034) 441-0459

1 The Chronicles of NARNIA
2 AKO LEGAL WIFE
3 The Chronicles of NARNIA
4 KING KONG
5 EXODUS
6 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

ILOILO
(033) 336-8070

1 The Chronicles of NARNIA
2 SHAKE, RATTLE and ROLL
3 EXODUS
4 AKO LEGAL WIFE
5 The Chronicles of NARNIA
6 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

MOVIE PASS
MOVIE PASS
MOVIE PASS

The Perfect Gift All Year Round

A Pre Paid Movie Pass to the Hottest Seats in town.

Get Special discounts for volume purchases!

For marketing and events/reservations please call Marketing Services Department at 687-7945 to 47 locals 14 and 15

AYALA CENTER
GLORIETTA • Greenbelt

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

AYALA CENTER
CEBU

AYALA MALLS
Lovemall!

Give the Ayala Malls eGC -
The Gift
of Over a Thousand
Choices.

AYALA MALLS
eGC

Now accepted in over 1,000 BPI affiliated establishmen
including restaurants, department stores, special
shops, spas, and more in five Ayala Mall

For inquiries, please c

Glorietta : 752-7324 Alabang Town Center : 842-3782/772-18
Ayala Center Cebu : (032) 232-0380 Market! Market! : 886-75

www.ayalamalls.com.ph

At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
SK Cultural'Dance January 14 2006	Addidas Exhibit January 13 to 15, 2006	Ms. Cebu Tourism Live Telecast January 12, 2005

AYALA
GREENBELT

Volvo Exhibit
January 13 to 15, 2006

GREENBELT 1
Onstage
AYALA CENTER

ONSTAGE - The perfect spot for concerts,
stage plays & coporate events
is now accepting bookings for May & July 2006
For bookings, pls. call 752-7862

Ayala MUSEUM

Registration for Art Workshops now on-going at
Ayala Museum
For inquiries, please call 757-7117 to 21 loc 29.
Online registration at www.ayalamuseum.org

AYALA CINEMAS

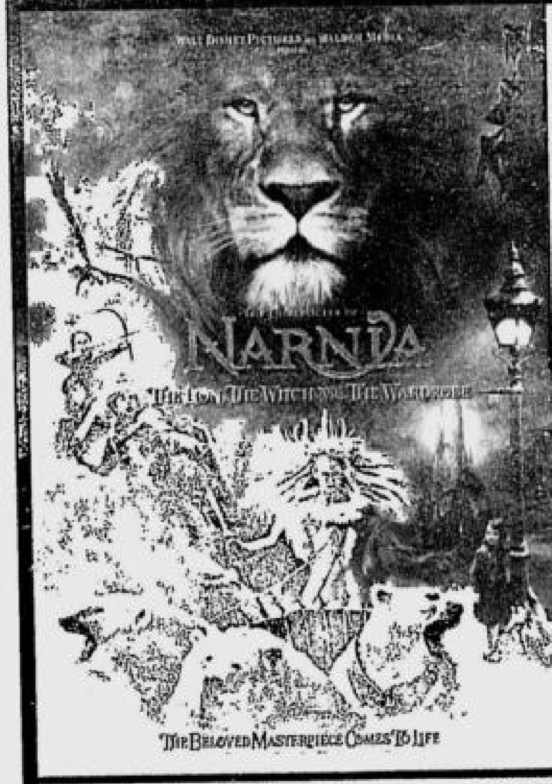
AYALA CINEMAS

THX

Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart)
or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 729 7777

G1	GLORIETTA 1	1 DON'T GIVE UP ON US	2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US	3 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA	4 ST. ANGE		
G4	GLORIETTA 4	1 FAMILY STONE	2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US	3 THX THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA GUARANTEED S	4 KING KONG	5 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA	6 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
		7 THE CHRONIC OF NARNIA					
GB1	GREENBELT 1	1 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA	2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US				
GB3	GREENBELT 3	1 THX THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA GUARANTEED S	3 KING KONG GUARANTEED SEATS	4 FAMILY STONE GUARANTEED SEATS	5 DON'T GIVE UP ON US GUARANTEED S	
ATC	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA	2 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA	3 FAMILY STONE	4 KING KONG	5 DON'T GIVE UP ON US	
ACC	AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA	2 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA	3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US	4 KING KON		


WALT DISNEY PICTURES and WALDEN MEDIA
NARNIA
THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE
THE BELOVED MASTERPIECE COMES TO LIFE

Now Showing AT ALL AYALA CINEMA

Reserve your seats by texting
SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4
to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart)

or log on to www.sureseats.com
for web reservation.

For screening schedules, pls. call 729-7777

Simply present two (2) Narnia Movie Tickets
at the Glorietta 4 Activity Center Narnia Event
on January 7 & 8 and get free Face Painting,
Narnia Picture Taking, and a chance to win
exciting prizes at the Snow Ball Dive!

MTRCB Rating: General Audience (G)

AYALA CINEMA

Customer Service text hotline: Customer Service text hotline:	0917 6095900 Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 8pm Greenbelt - 757 4853; from 11am to 12mn
Alabang Town Center - Ayala Center Cebu -	842 2782; from 10am to 8pm (032) 231 5342 loc 324

All-Digital Cinemas

MARKET! MARKET!

The fun is in the finds

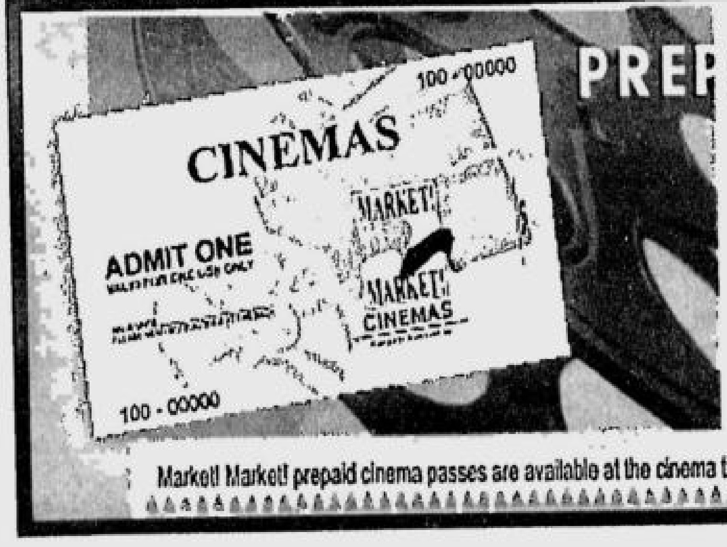
Developed and managed by Ayala Land, Inc.

Movies are subject to change
without prior notice.
Customer Service Hotline: 886-7515

Free Seating Cinemas: P80.00

① ENTENG KABISOTE
② BLUE MOON
③ AKO LEGAL WIFE
④ LAGOT KA SA KUYA KO
⑤ MULAWIN

EVENTS! EVENTS!



PREPAID CINEMA PAS

Give the gift of entertainmen

MARKET! MARKET!

The fun is in the fin

Market! Market! prepaid cinema passes are available at the cinema ticket booth.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

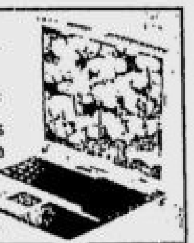
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS

Text us your feedback: inquirer biz name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inq7money.net

Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma



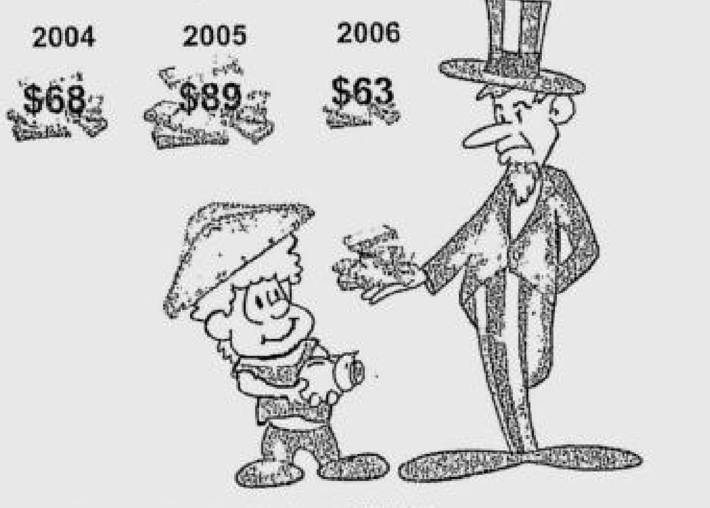
Latitude D510™
Essential Productivity
at Exceptional Value
The Latitude D510™ is for value-conscious buyers seeking Pentium-class performance in a basic solution
DELL™ Call ICS for more info!
INTEGRATED COMPUTER SYSTEMS, INC.
Tel. (632)727-3801 www.ics.com.ph

Treasury rejects all bids for 91-day bills

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

USAID Assistance to RP 2004- 2006 (in million US dollars)



Source: US Agency for International Development- Philippines

THE US Agency for International Development assistance program aims to support the country's social and economic development. For 2006, the USAID has earmarked $63 million for the Philippines. Of this 34 percent wil go to family planning and health programs. This year's amount is 42 percent lower than last year's $89 million.

Chona Galang PDI Research

Bids for 6-month, 1-year paper swell

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT REJECTED ALL BIDS FOR the 91-day treasury bills but raised its borrowing through the other maturities as market appetite veered away from the three-month debt instrument following the drop in its yield to the 4-percent level last week.

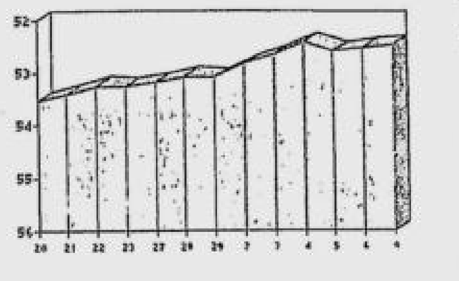
Had the Treasury accepted the bids for the 91-day bills, the rate could have increased by 14 basis points to 5.101 percent. The decision to reject all bids for the bellwether 91-day bills kept the rate at the previous week's 4.961 percent.

The market was relatively not interested in the three-month government securities, with tenders reaching only P1.16 billion. Although the amount of tenders was higher than the government's offering of P1 billion, National Treasurer Omar Cruz said it still showed under-subscription for the 91-day bills considering the high level of market liquidity.

But to maintain the government's programmed borrowing of P3.5 billion a week through the issuance of treasury bills (P1 billion each through the 91- and 182-day bills, and P1.5 billion through the 364-day paper), the

TREASURY/ B2

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 52.48 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Jan. 9, 2006

¥ 116.10 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Jan. 6, 2006

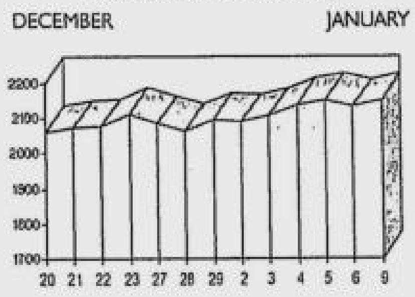
GOLD: $527.80-528.30

per ounce Hong Kong, Jan. 6, 2006

STOCK MARKET

Shares close at 10-month high

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

SHARE PRICES closed 0.81 percent higher yesterday, hitting a fresh 10-month high as regional markets welcomed the prospect that the US interest rate cycle is near to peaking out, dealers said.

They said sentiment was positive on an improving fiscal and economic outlook but there may be some consolidation this week as most stocks are beginning to become expensive.

The composite index rose 17.36 points to 2,151.15 after trading between 2,133.79 and 2,152.55. Yesterday's finish was the best since March 19, 2005, when the index ended at 2,157.14. Volume was 366.8 million shares worth P814.8 million.

The broader all-shares index gained 7.92 points to 1,012.72.

Gainers led losers 46 to 27, with 48 stocks unchanged.

"Foreign funds are buying into key index (stocks) with strong earnings forecasts. They expect these firms' positive earnings performance to continue this year," said James Lago of Westlink Global Equities Inc.

Dealers said a stronger peso, coupled with tamer inflation in December and slowing liquidity growth, signal more stable and maybe lower interest rates this year.

This should be good for banking and property issues, they said. *AFP*

EARLY 'RE-PRIVATIZATION' SEEN

Gov't names 6 to Maynilad board

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE GOVERNMENT YESTERDAY NAMED SIX nominees to the 12-member board of Maynilad Water Services Inc. in a bid to speed up the privatization of the cash-strapped utility that supplies water to Metro Manila's west zone.

The nominees were Oscar I. Garcia, who will also be designated chair once Maynilad elects a new board on Thursday, former Justice Perlita J. Tirona, lawyers Gerardo P. Cabochan, Santiago T. Gabionza Jr., Felipe C. Siapno and Rommel Macas Cancio.

Maynilad president Fiorello Estuar will also be nominated by the government to the board, while Maynilad's French partner Suez Lyonnais will name four nominees led by Jacques Letondot.

"This advances the rehabilitation of the company five years ahead of schedule," government corporate counsel Agnes Devanadera said in an interview.

She noted that this would be advantageous to the government as this would make way for the re-privatization of the west concession at a much faster pace.

"The new board nominees will be formally elected on Thursday and the very first agenda (of the new board) is the approval of the recommended financial adviser (ABN-Amro), which will draw up the terms of reference of the re-bidding," Devanadera explained.

The Privatization and Management Office wants to complete the terms of reference for Maynilad's re-bidding by June.

The OGCC chief also reiterated that there would be no new money to be invested by the national government.

Maynilad needs P2.3 billion in capital expenditures this year to further curb systems losses and generate more income for the west concessionaire.

The capital expenditure requirement would come from internally generated funds mostly from earnings and tariff increases obtained in 2005, Estuar told the INQUIRER in another interview.

"The higher capital expenditure program level not lower than P2 billion has historically resulted to lower NRW (non-revenue water) levels. This is what we are aiming at to fully make the company financially viable," Estuar said.

NRW, which is the measure of water systems losses caused by pilferage and busted pipes, could only be improved with corresponding improvements in a concessionaire's system, he noted.

Maynilad targets to narrow down its NRW by at least 2 percent annually. For 2006, the NRW target of Maynilad is at 64.5 percent.

WHAT'S INSIDE

DOF to resurrect tax evasion programs /B2

NO FREE LUNCH

Stronger peso: Good or bad? /B2

BSP sees 5% rise in foreign investments

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES CAN ATTRACT $940 MILlion worth of net foreign direct investments this year, or 5 percent better than the estimated net inflow of $896 million in 2005, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas projected.

FDI flows represent investments in brick-and-mortar businesses that are usually capital- and labor-intensive such as those spent in building new factories, power plants, mining ventures or other enterprises.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo told reporters that the expected FDIs this year would likely go to the power, manufacturing and telecommunication sectors.

These would jumpstart or beef up foreign investments in local enterprises and corporations or tie-ups with local companies, he noted.

While the actual yearend figures were not yet available, the $896 million in expected net FDI level for 2005 was in line with the BSP's $900-million forecast for the year.

The expected privatization of power-generating plants owned by the government as well as the Supreme Court's ruling that favored the entry of foreign investors in the mining sector were seen as catalysts in attracting more foreign investments.

GUINIGUNDO

Business process outsourcing is likewise a booming industry in the Philippines, with big multinational corporations shifting some of their backroom operations such as call center requirements to the country to take advantage of its English-speaking workforce.

But despite a much improved economic environment, the latest forecasts made by the BSP represented a downscaling of the earlier $1.2-billion net FDI target for 2006 made in October last year.

Although more FDIs are expected this year

BSP/ B2

Shell to start selling gasoline with ethanol blend this year

By Abigail L. Ho

FULFILLING ITS COMMITMENT TO JUMP on the alternative fuels bandwagon in 2006, Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. has confirmed its intent to start importing ethanol within the year.

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said Shell had already expressed its desire to take part in ethanol importation this year, particularly with the incentives that came with bringing the alternative fuel into the country.

EO 449 reduces the tariff on ethanol imports from 10 percent to 1 percent as part of government efforts to encourage the use of alternative fuels.

Since there would be no locally produced ethanol until 2007, Lotilla said the best way to encourage bio-ethanol fuel development and use now would be to reduce import duties on ethyl alcohol.

New player Seaoil Petroleum Corp. has already started selling gasoline with a 10-percent ethanol blend straight from its pumps.

Shell country chair Edgar Chua earlier said that they have conducted studies on the feasibility of selling ethanol pre-blended gasoline directly from its pumps and that the actual selling should start this year.

Before selling the product, however, he said Shell should first look at all aspects that could possibly affect its business and even its consumers.

He explained that ethanol, because of its chemical composition, need special care in storage and handling.

Ethanol required proper handling, he said, particularly if the product would be imported. It should not come into contact with water as this would affect its composition.

He added that ethanol could not be placed in just any ordinary storage tank. The storage facility should be made of mild steel.

AIM ASIAN CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP

ENTREPRENEURIAL LEADERSHIP AND STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT

FEBRUARY 13 - 16, 2006

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Enterpreneurial Leadership and Strategic Management (ELSM) course is developed for entrepreneurs and key managers of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and enterprise development organizations.

The ELSM focuses on:
1. Strategizing and leadership approaches for enterprises
2. Essential tools for enterprise strategic planning
3. Strategies to improve enterprise positioning and performance
4. Leadership principles and applications

COURSE CONTENT

- Approaches to Strategy: Adaptive, Ideological, Creative, Rational
- The Strategic Planning Process
  - External Assessment: A Framework for Strategizing
    - Looking at the Big Picture
    - Market and Micro Market Analysis: The Small Picture
  - Internal Assessment: A Framework for Organizational Diagnosis
- Enterprise Visioning and Positioning
- Entrepreneurial Leadership
  - The Entrepreneurial Leader: A Self-Assessment
  - Leading the Enterprise
  - Leadership Challenge
- Applying the Learnings to your Enterprise
  - Strategic Plan for your Enterprise
  - Leadership Action Program

For inquiries and reservation call: Ms. Luvy Villanueva / Ms. Liza Ayalde
Tel +632 892-4011 to 25 ext. 187, 252, 356, 332; Telefax +632 813-3302
Email: ace@aim.edu.ph; lvillanueva@aim.edu.ph

EQUIS ACCREDITED

Eugenio Lopez Foundation Building, Joseph R. McMicking Campus
123 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City 1260 Philippines
www.aim.edu.ph

Jan.-Nov. pre-need sales dipped

Industry player opts out; another mulls over exit

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SALES OF PRE-NEED FIRMS REMAINED weak during the 11 months that ended in November 2005, dipping 46 percent to P18.9 billion from the P35 billion posted during the same period in 2004, the Securities and Exchange Commission said in a monthly sales report.

The decline was led by sales of education plans, which went down 56.6 percent to P5.5 billion from January to November from the P12.6 billion posted year-on-year.

Revenue of pension plans also dropped 46.2 percent to P9.9 billion in the 11-month period last year from P18.4 billion in 2004.

Life plans sold sank 11 percent to P3.5 billion from P3.9 billion in the same period in 2004.

For the month of November alone, pre-need sales went down 48 percent to P1.48 billion compared with P2.84 billion in the same month in 2004.

The biggest decline for November was seen in education plans, which fell 68 percent to P354.6 million.

Life plans dropped 61 percent to P238.7 million in November followed by pension plans that shrank 20 percent to P884.3 million.

Compared with October's sales performance, November's sales was slightly up 6.7 percent from the P1.38 billion of the previous month, led by the slight increase in sales of life and pension plans.

Seeing the deterioration in business conditions and the prevailing regulatory environment, education and pension plan provider Pryce Plans Inc. has decided to exit the pre-need industry, industry sources said.

Another pre-need firm, TPG Plans, is also carefully reviewing its strategy, whether to stay on or to shift to another line of business.

Sources familiar with Pryce Plans said the firm's management had decided not to renew it's dealer's license for 2006, The license allows a firm to sell education plans.

Pryce Plans' license expired last Dec. 31.

But the sources stressed that Pryce Plans would continue to service education plan benefits of its plan holders.

TPG Plans, on the other hand, is still studying whether to apply for the renewal of its dealer's license for 2006.

The SEC had said in its status report that Pryce Plans and TPG would not be qualified for the renewal of their respective license for 2006 pending compliance to some reportorial requirements.

The House of Representatives in a resolution dated Dec. 5 urged the SEC to suspend its controversial rule on the Actuarial Reserve Liability (ARL). The rule requires pre-need firms to book reserves to settle liabilities to plan holders.

Congress also urged SEC to restore the licenses of several pre-need firms to ease their cash flow.

The pre-need industry's present woes were brought on by the government's 1993 decision to deregulate the tuition setting of private schools and universities.

Stronger peso: Good or bad?

NO FREE LUNCH

Cielito F. Habito

"THE PESO IS ON A ROLL," I WROTE IN this column almost a year ago today (NFL, 1-31-05), as the peso-dollar exchange rate had moved from well above P56 in mid-2004 down to P54 by January last year. Sound familiar? Now we are at the P52 range, an even more dramatic drop from the above-P56 levels we were seeing around mid-year 2005.

Is this good news or bad news? Media and the authorities largely portray it as good news. But the situation merits closer examination to understand why it is actually both, depending on how one looks at it, and depending on who is being affected.

Surging dollar supplies

As the basic law of supply and demand tells us, the price of something (including of a currency, like the US dollar) will go down if either supply of it increases, or demand for it decreases, or both.

What's been happening lately is that the peso value of the dollar has been falling (which also means the value of the peso has been rising in dollar terms). Thus, supply of dollars getting into the country must be rising, or demand for dollars must be falling, or both.

Export earnings are clearly not boosting our dollar supplies, as exports had been rather sluggish in 2005 with an average growth of only around 3 percent (down from double-digit growth the year before).

But everyone knows that overseas remittances are surging lately, and are estimated to have exceeded $10 billion in 2005. Much of it came in towards the Christmas holidays, and this is an annual seasonal phenomenon.

Slow demand

The supply side doesn't tell the whole story, though. Slower demand for dollars has a role in the stronger peso as well, and this isn't exactly good news.

Demand for dollars comes primarily from importers, but latest available data show an actual drop in imports (-3.1 percent) as of October.

And since the bulk of our imports are in the form of production inputs (e.g. equipment, fuel and raw materials), slower or lower imports presage slower production and a slower economy ahead.

Incidentally, NEDA's press release on the import data highlights the fact that despite the import drop in October, there was a significant increase (11.9 percent) in imports of aircraft, ships and boats, and other lumpy capital equipment.

This to me is even worse news, because if lumpy imports like aircraft grew by so much while overall import growth was negative, then the drop in imports of inputs for the more job-generating manufacturing sectors must have been more dramatic than the overall -3.1 percent import decline suggests.

Worse, the strength of the peso could further weaken the already weak performance of the manufacturing sector. A cheaper dollar has a dampening effect on exports, the bulk of which are manufactured products like electronics and wearing apparel. That's why many are beginning to express concern, rather than elation, with the surging peso.

Winners and losers

A stronger peso benefits some, and hurts some.

Obvious gainers are consumers of imports and import-dependent products, as peso costs for every dollar's worth of imports go down, translating to lower prices. Outgoing Filipino tourists also benefit, as it becomes even cheaper to visit Hong Kong Disneyland as against visiting, say, Boracay or Bohol.

Filipinos wishing to invest abroad rather than in the domestic economy also find it cheaper to do so. Also gaining are those who have to pay back foreign loans, including the government.

Losers are domestic producers, especially exporters. But you don't have to be an exporter to be hurt. Producers for the domestic market also get hurt by competition from even cheaper imports. Foreign tourists also find it less attractive to visit us even as more Filipino tourists choose to go abroad, thereby hurting the tourism industry.

And while Filipinos are encouraged to invest abroad, direct foreign investors also find it more expensive to invest here, and less attractive to do so especially in export-oriented ventures.

The losers, in the end, are our job-hungry workers. Add to that OFW families, whose remittances convert into less pesos than before—and this goes on to affect the producers of the goods and services they buy.

Government impact

Government also ends up with less revenues because import duty collections go down when the peso value of imports goes down.

DBM Undersecretary Laura Pascua tells me that the net effect of the peso appreciation on the fiscal balance is neutral, as the loss on the revenue side (about P1.5 to 1.6 billion for every peso drop in the exchange rate) is compensated by a corresponding savings in foreign debt service payments.

Meanwhile, government is apparently gaining from the positive spin that the stronger currency has been getting. It is, we are told, a sign of increased confidence in our economy—whereas for reasons described above, increased confidence would actually be misplaced. So it can't be that.

What many don't realize is that the US dollar actually weakened dramatically against major currencies in the opening days of the new year, and this has had a lot to do with the current strengthening of the peso (along with other regional currencies) against the dollar. Let's get the whole picture right. *Comments welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu.*

Exporters earned over $278M in trade fairs abroad

By Ronnel W. Domingo

LOCAL EXPORTERS EARNED A combined $278.1 9 million from overseas trade fairs and another P272.3 million from local exhibitions in 2005, according to the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions.

Citem, the export trade promotions agency of the Department of Trade and Industry, reported that last year, 2,037 small and medium enterprises and private firms took part in 38 trade fairs and business missions here and abroad.

Citem chief and Trade Assistant Secretary Fe Agoncillo-Reyes said the increase in export sales was largely due to the success of Citem's major projects, like the International Food Exhibition, National Trade Fair, e-Services Philippines, Manila FAME International, BIO-Search and Industry Link.

IFEX alone achieved a 23-percent increase in sales and 53-percent improvement in the attendance of foreign buyers, most of whom came from China, the United States, Italy, Singapore and Hong Kong.

Other sources of foreign exchange earnings were the Citem-backed participation of local firms in various international food shows, such as the International Sweets and Biscuits Fair in Germany and Saudifood in Saudi Arabia.

Reyes said seven exporters that joined ISM, the leading fair for the global confectionery industry, reported $44 million worth of negotiated orders.

Also, another group of seven local companies sent to Saudifood earned $5.07 million.

On the local front, the National Trade Fair held at SM Megamall's Megatrade Halls posted retail sales of P21.6 million or 28 percent higher than the P16.9 million reported the previous year.

Also, supply agreements negotiated during the NTF yielded some P142 million worth of products or 238 percent higher than the P50.9 million firmed up in 2004.

NTF's top sellers included furniture and furnishings, gifts, home décor, and houseware, fashion accessories and processed food.

Reyes said 2005 was "an active year for export trade promotion" as the agency implemented 38 projects plus three major business meetings that included the 1st Ifex Symposium (for the food sector), Nurturing the Creative Economy (creative industry) and the Beautiful Shrinking World (furniture and home ware design).

Trade Secretary Peter B. Favila said the focus of the government's export development program was the SMEs singled out to tap the overseas market.

"By helping SMEs graduate into exporting firms, we strengthen the country's ability to earn more dollars through the manufacture of homegrown goods," Favila said.

Treasury rejects all bids for 91-day bills

From page A1

Bureau of Treasury's auction committee accepted more bids than scheduled for the six-month and one-year securities.

The committee accepted P1.4 billion worth of bids for the 182-day bills and P2.1 billion for the 364-day paper.

Cruz explained that investors chose the longer-tenor bills given the significant differential in the yields of the 91-day and those of the 182- and 364-day bills.

"The differential between 91-day and 182-day rates is 200 basis points. So they (market) are not picking it (91-day) up," Cruz said in a press briefing after the auctions.

Due to the huge demand for the 182-day bills, with tenders reaching P9.01 billion, the rate dropped by 37.2 basis points to 6.435 percent. The rate for 364-day bills fell to 7.399 percent, or 21.2 basis points lower than the previous rate, as bids reached P7.63 billion.

Although the appetite for the 91-day bills was weaker compared with that for the other tenors, Cruz said it was still difficult to say whether the three-month rate has already bottomed out.

He said that given the limited supply of government debt offering, set at only P3.5 billion a week through treasury bills and P4 billion in treasury bonds, and the high market liquidity, the rates could still decline.

He noted that there were some P7 billion worth of maturing government securities this week, with the money expected to be reinvested in either treasury bills or bonds.

BSP sees 5% rise in foreign investments

From page B1

compared to 2005, there are some outflows expected from the offshore expansion plans of Philippine companies like food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp.

SMC has emerged as regional player after a spate of major acquisitions, including that of Australian dairy giant National Foods Ltd. It has likewise made inroads to new markets like Vietnam, Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia on top of existing investments in China.

The latest figure from the BSP indicated that some $812 million in FDIs flowed into the Philippines from January to September this year, 69 percent better than a year ago, on rosier prospects for the manufacturing sector.

But the nine-month FDI flows to the Philippines represented a slowdown from the $929 million that entered from January to August, largely due to outflows from inter-company borrowings recorded in September.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of January 9, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	36	36	35	35.5	791,600
Bank of the Phil. Islands	56	56	55.5	56	298,800
China Banking Corp.	610	610	605	605	1,210
Chinatrust Comm. Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	2,000
Citystate Savings Bank	19	19	19	19	300
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	62	62	59.5	61.5	554,000
International Exch. Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	32,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	33.5	33.5	33	33.5	939,000
Philippine National Bank	33.5	33.5	33	33	263,600
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	14	14	14	14	700
Security Bank Corp.	35	35.5	35	35.5	583,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	2,700
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTION					
Manulife Financial Corp.	3170	3170	3160	3170	4,200
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2140	2140	2140	2140	760
Ivantage Corp.	0.62	0.64	0.62	0.62	1,080,000
INDUSTRIAL ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	53	53.5	53	53.5	840,100
Manila Electric Co. A	14.25	14.5	14.25	14.5	14,800
Manila Electric Co. B	22.25	22.25	22	22.25	169,000
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.5	256,000
Petron Corp.	4.65	4.85	4.65	4.85	3,585,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.96	20,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	13,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23.5	23.5	23.25	23.5	5,100
Jollibee Foods Corp.	40	40.5	40	40	691,700
Pancake House Inc.	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	10,000
RFM Corp.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	330,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	170,000
San Miguel Corp. A	64	64.5	64	64	104,000
San Miguel Corp. B	88	88	88	88	10,100
Universal Robina Corp.	20	20.25	20	20	4,100
Vitarich Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	350,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	350,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.77	0.77	0.76	0.76	630,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.5	1,484,000
CHEMICALS					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	10,000
Interphil Labs Inc. A	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	10,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	960,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	300,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	100,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	30,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	83,000,000
Ayala Corp.	335	345	335	342.5	336,590
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	325,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	66,000
APC Group Inc.	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	100,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	140,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.1	9.1	9.1	9.1	12,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.18	1.24	1.18	1.24	34,984,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.2	3.25	3.2	3.25	1,322,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.26	1.28	1.26	1.28	300,000
House Of Investments Inc.	1	1.04	1	1.04	380,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.65	3.65	3.65	3.65	490,000
Medco Holdings	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	10,000
Pacifica	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	3,000,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.19	0.2	0.19	0.2	3,710,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1	1.1	1	1.1	5,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.45	0.45	100,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.135	0.14	0.135	0.14	2,460,000
SM Investments Corp.	241	241	240	241	119,720
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	1,000,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.11	0.13	0.11	0.13	410,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	9,143,400
Belle Corp.	1.06	1.08	1.04	1.04	469,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	121,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	100,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	1.12	1.12	1.1	1.12	178,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	10,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	14,190,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.46	1.5	1.46	1.5	11,965,000
Interport Res. B	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	7,000,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	1,000,000
City & Land Developers	1.52	1.52	1.52	1.52	1,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.49	0.5	0.48	0.5	910,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.42	1.46	1.36	1.38	16,077,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.37	0.37	6,930,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	400,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.145	0.15	0.145	0.15	200,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	6	6	6	6	5,000
SM Development Corp.	1.46	1.46	1.44	1.44	220,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8	8.1	8	8	6,142,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.125	0.125	300,000
SERVICE MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	3,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.94	0.95	0.94	0.94	980,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	760	770	760	770	24,220
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	1,498,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1830	1835	1830	1830	39,270
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.17	0.175	0.17	0.17	400,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.049	1,200,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.06	1.1	1.06	1.1	126,000
Philweb Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.014	0.015	2,900,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	1,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	9.7	9.8	9.7	9.8	623,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	10,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.48	1.48	1,110,000
EDUCATION					
Centro Escolar University	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9	9,000
Ipeople Inc.	3.05	3.1	3.05	3.05	37,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	1.42	1.42	1.4	1.4	173,000
Paxys Inc.	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.3	1,324,000
MINING & OIL MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.98	1.06	0.98	1.04	1,590,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.99	1.08	0.99	1.08	750,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	5.7	5.9	5.7	5.9	796,000
Benguet Corp. A	7	7.2	7	7.2	74,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.22	0.23	0.215	0.23	26,620,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.25	0.28	0.25	0.27	22,340,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	22,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.029	36,100,000
Omico Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	8,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1.38	1.42	1.38	1.4	2,076,000
Philex Mining Corp B	1.9	1.96	1.9	1.96	7,455,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	3,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	410,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	5,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	50,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	20,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3.8	3.8	3.75	3.75	56,000
PREFERRED					
PLDT (10% Pref) Series J	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series O	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	700
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	13	13	13	13	83,200

DISCLOSURES

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co.'s first vice president Emiliano Tanchico disposed of 3,730 shares, at P1,850 per share, on Jan. 4. This reduced the number of his beneficially owned shares to 2,339. The following day, senior vice president George Lim disposed of all his 1,000 shares for the same price. Meanwhile, vice president Emmanuel Ocumen disposed of 325 shares (PCD account) and 631 shares (certificated) at P1,850 share, leaving him without any beneficially owned share. ***Compiled by Cyril L. Bonabente, PDI Research***

MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan

Due to space constraints, Mr. Bearbull will appear on Wednesday

CURRENCIES

January 9, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.822978	1.000000	52.6460
Japan	Yen	0.007194	0.008742	0.4602
United Kingdom	Pound	1.456917	1.770300	93.1992
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.106148	0.128981	6.7903
Switzerland	Franc	0.648014	0.787402	41.4536
Canada	Dollar	0.705995	0.857854	45.1626
Singapore	Dollar	0.502582	0.610687	32.1502
Australia	Dollar	0.618966	0.752106	39.5954
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.183485	2.653153	139.6779
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.219455	0.266660	14.0386
Brunei	Dollar	0.501052	0.608828	32.0524
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000086	0.000105	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.020652	0.025094	1.3211
UAE	Dirham	0.224074	0.272272	14.3340
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.215100	63.9702
Argentina	Peso	0.269740	0.327761	17.2553
Brazil	Real	0.361351	0.439078	23.1157
Denmark	Kroner	0.134112	0.162959	8.5791
India	Rupee	0.018569	0.022563	1.1879
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.219344	0.266525	14.0315
Mexico	New Peso	0.077952	0.094719	4.9866
New Zealand	Dollar	0.567924	0.690084	36.3302
South Africa	Rand	0.135032	0.164077	8.6380
Korea	Won	0.000832	0.001011	0.0532
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025598	0.031104	1.6376

DOF to resurrect tax evasion programs

Teves vows to spend more time on RATE, RATS, RIPS

By Michelle V. Remo

THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT SAID IT would resurrect its campaign to go after tax evaders, smugglers and corrupt government workers to plug revenue losses.

"I want to spend more time on them (RATE, RATS, RIPS) this year than what I have done in the last five months," said Finance Secretary Margarito Teves.

The RATE (Run After Tax Evaders), RATS (Run After the Smugglers), and RIPS (Revenue Integrity Protection Service) programs were launched during the time of Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, who served from February to July last year.

Under the programs, the DOF, together with either the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs, filed high-profile tax evasion or smuggling cases every week and corruption cases once every two weeks.

The programs were part of the government's campaign to encourage the public to religiously pay taxes and duties.

The weekly and fortnightly schedule for the filing of cases, however, was missed following the change of leadership last July.

But newly appointed Finance Undersecretary Gaudencio Mendoza Jr., who replaced Undersecretary Emmanuel Bonoan, said he was tasked by Teves to revive the three programs and make them part of the DOF's agenda for 2006.

"We are looking at certain efforts to preserve the RIPS program. As soon as we have evidence, we will file as many as we can," Mendoza told reporters.

He added that the concerned BIR and DOF authorities were studying ways to improve the presentation of evidence against suspected tax evaders to make RATE cases progress quickly.

On the RATS, he said the DOF wants to pin down big-time suspects rather than focus on small-time ones.

Some big names charged with tax evasion under the old RATE program were celebrities Richard Gomez, Judy Ann Santos, Regine Velasquez, former Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap, doctor Joel Mendez, columnist Tina Juan and basketball star Asi Taulava.

Oil firm seeks to increase biodiesel fuel sales

By Abigail L. Ho

INDEPENDENT OIL FIRM FLYING V plans to invest in more pumps that will dispense alternative fuels, hoping to increase the share of its coco methyl ester (CME)-blended diesel to as much as 40 percent of total diesel sales this year.

Flying V chair Ramon Villavicencio said biodiesel in 2005 accounted for between 15 and 20 percent of the oil firm's total diesel sales.

Of this total, 10 percent came from motorists converting to biodiesel from ordinary diesel, while another 10 percent came from new business.

"We hope to get biodiesel to account for 30-40 percent of our diesel sales this year," Villavicencio said. "Right now, Flying V is the only oil firm selling (CME-blended diesel) at the pump. But we also have ordinary diesel to give consumers a choice."

At present, he said there were 32 Flying V stations that were selling CME-blended diesel in the country.

The oil firm has more than 120 stations nationwide.

Villavicencio said Flying V planned to invest in more pumps that would dispense CME-blended diesel.

In 2006, Villavicencio said 70 percent of its stations, or about 84, should have such dispensing pumps.

Each pump and tank for CME-blended diesel costs around P800,000, he said.

In an earlier interview, Villavicencio said Flying V would be investing between P150 million and P450 million for the establishment of three new depots over the next three years.

A new depot in Poro Point, La Union, with a capacity of four million liters, should be ready for use within the first quarter.

Another one, currently being established in Cebu, should be completed some time this year.

The company would also be putting up a depot in Cagayan de Oro, which should be finished by next year, Villavicencio said.

Each depot, he said, cost between P50 million and P150 million, depending on the capacity, which ranged from 2 million liters to 10 million liters.

Flying V currently has five existing depots, with a combined capacity of 12 million liters of fuel.

Garci tapes are fake

(Second of a series)

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

RANDY DAVID DISAGREES with my analysis (in my column of Dec. 19) that, except for the chat between the President Arroyo and a Comelec official (presumably Garcillano), the rest of the Garci tapes are fake.

I had written that technology, equipment and expertise are available in Metro Manila for taping the voices of two real people engaged in a conversation that never took place.

David says, a voice authenticator can tell us if the voices in the tape match the voiceprints of a given sample of voices. The voiceprints may match with a given sample of voices, but that is no proof that the conversation took place.

David says a recording technician can ascertain the physical integrity of a piece of recorded material. It can be safely assumed that the Garci tapes have physical integrity but, again, that is no proof that the conversation took place.

David calls my analysis absurd. He relies on hermeneutics and ethnomethodology. These long words are not found in my insurance dictionary. So, I looked them up in Webster's unabridged dictionary.

Hermeneutics is "the science of interpretation and explanation, especially that branch of theology which defines the laws applied by exegesis." Exegesis means "exposition; esp., a critical explanation of a portion of Scripture."

Some science. After centuries of applying hermeneutics on God's word, there are today 3,000 (and counting) different versions of the Bible in publication, and 30,000 Christian sects all over the world.

Ethnomethodology is the "sociological study of the rules and rituals underlying ordinary social activities and interactions." That is some mouthful. I prefer to rely on the pure logic of mechanical engineering and stay in the mundane business of insurance brokerage.

Of course, I realize that interpreting God's word is infinitely harder than decoding the Garci tapes.

Even then, I prefer the explanation of my grandson Paco. He is a sophomore in digital illustration and animation (DIA). This is a four-year diploma course offered only by the Ateneo de Naga University. Not even the University of the Philippines offers this highly specialized course.

About seven years ago, the late Father Raul Bonoan, then president of the University, sent a member of the faculty to the Seattle headquarters of Microsoft to study DIA.

When he came back, he designed and developed the course. It is the hardest and most expensive course in the campus. But money will not get you into the program. Artistic talent and aptitude will.

Paco tells me that with the rising demand for digital animators, the University has decided to expand and improve its DIA facilities.

There is an annual contest among digital animators held in Manila. Pitted against teams from UP and St. Benilde, the Ateneo de Naga team has run away with the grand prizes two years in a row.

The digitalized special effects you sometimes see on Jay Leno's Tonight show and in the movies (King Kong is the latest example) are the products of digital animators.

Paco tells me that, with limited equipment, he and his classmates sometimes fool around in their spare time to produce tape recordings of the authentic voices of two real people engaged in a conversation that never took place.

If the boys have enough recordings of David's voice, I guess they can produce a tape of a fake conversation with Garcillano.

You can't detect the fakery except by the same electronic equipment that produced the fake tapes. This method needs the least amount of human intervention. The results are surefire and exact.

If David is game, I can bring him to a place in Metro Manila where the equipment has been operating for some time. And I am putting a case of pale Pilsen on the line.

Quedancor wants ₱8.1B set aside for farmers, microentrepreneurs

By Christine A. Gaylican

STATE-OWNED AGRICULTURE AND MICROfinance lender Quedan Rural Credit and Guarantee Corp. (Quedancor) yesterday said that it would expand its loan portfolio by another P2.4 billion to P8.1 billion this year to reach out to more rural borrowers and microentrepreneurs.

Nelson Buenaflor, Quedancor president and chief executive, said that the state-run firm would be working closely with local government units, as well as commercial and development banks, to meet this goal.

Buenaflor said Quedancor would again be issuing bonds in the capital markets, in compliance with Presidential Decree No. 717 or the Agri-Agra law.

In 2004, the United Coconut Planters Bank and the First Metro Investment Corp. were the lead arranger and issuer of the bond issuance.

In 2005, the East-West Bank availed of a re-discounting window from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to acquire P100 million in debt papers from Quedancor.

Over the last two years, Allied Banking Corp., the Philippine Veterans Bank, the government-owned United Coconut Planters Bank and Land Bank of the Philippines opened similar credit re-discounting windows with Quedancor.

In acquiring the debt papers of Quedancor's farmer-clients, the banks in effect complied with the law's requirements that they "invest in the agriculture sector and agrarian reform-related projects," Buenaflor explained.

Quedancor will, in turn, use the funds to issue non-collateral loans to thousands of small farmers, fisherfolk, food retailers and rural and urban poor borrowers nationwide.

Quedancor serves as the banks' conduit for lending and collection, he added.

Buenaflor reported that as of December 2004, Quedancor's total lending portfolio stood at P5 billion. For 2005, the state-owned firm hopes to provide some P5.3 billion for its lending activities and P438 million for guarantees.

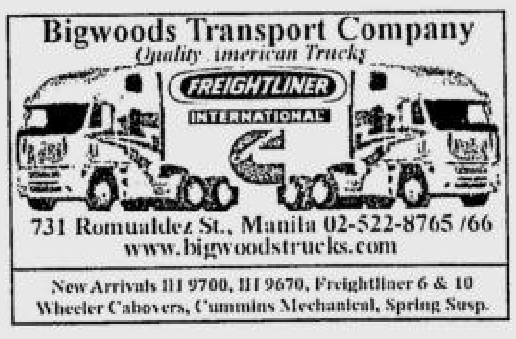
"For your convenience, at affordable price."
HAND PALLET TRUCK
MANUAL/ ELECTRIC STACKER
PLATFORM TRUCK
CONVEYOR
DRUM DOLLY / ROTATOR / LIFTER
Also available
STORAGE RACKS FOR COMMERCIAL OR INDUSTRIAL USE
JUSTIC CORPORATION
No. 99 Dasmariñas St., Binondo, Manila, Philippines
Tel. Nos.: 242-2048 • 241-5237 • 242-6942

A must-attend seminar for developers, investors & property owners!
REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT w/ HLURB RULES
January 17, 1:30-6 pm, 2nd Flr, Max's Rest., Glorietta 2, Ayala Cntr, Mkti
Covers How to's of Property Development; evaluating land potential before acquisition; evaluating economic feasibility before development; why & when vacant & idle lands should be developed; phases of property development; other notes on land development & housing const; marketing and subdivision management; notes on condominium developments; government permits, licenses requirements; rules of PD 957, BP 220; RA 6552; exemptions from license to sell & others.
For more details, call 681-0928 or email: urbanet@pacific.net.ph
Or simply text your name, fax no. or email address to CP# 0916-426-9174
URBAN INSTITUTE OF REAL ESTATE

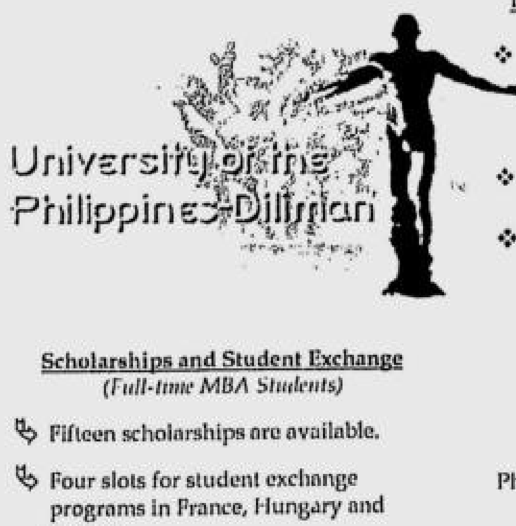
Earn 8.0%TAX-FREE interest!
Open a 5-year
PSBank Prime Time Deposit now!
• Affordable at PhP50,000.
• Guaranteed fixed rate for 5 years.
• Monthly payout of interest earnings.
Quoted rate is on per annum basis and subject to change without prior notice.
Get it now at any PSBank branch.
PSBank Prime TIME DEPOSIT
Text PSBANK PRIME <your name> <your landline no.> <your email address> then send to 2327 for Globe or 0917-8902327 for non-Globe users.
Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation. Maximum deposit insurance for each depositor P250,000.

Have a SMART start this 2006... use
MSI Packaged Software.
MSI PAYROLL
Ensures FAST, COMPLETE & ACCURATE computation of payroll & generation of government reportorial requirements.
MSI DTR DAILY TIME RECORDING SYSTEM
A Time Keeping Software that keeps track employee's attendance, absences, tardiness, UT and OT records.
MSI PIS PERSONNEL INFORMATION SYSTEM
Displays comprehensive 201 Files, & prints pre-defined personnel forms.
OTHER PRODUCTS:
PROFIT Retail System (POS/Sales Mngr., Inv., A.R. & P.O.)
• For Inquiries on Profit System call:
734-8858 • 736-6753 • 735-4892
FREE DEMO w/ in M.M.
Attention: MSI Payroll Users
Latest version w/ the new PHIC TABLE for PREMIUM CONTRIBUTION for 2006 is now available.
METROSOFT, INC.
PACKAGED SYSTEMS APPLICATION PROVIDER
LG1 Cityland 9 Dela Rosa Condo.,
7648 Dela Rosa St., Makati City 1230
Tels.: 892-2798 • 892-2808 • 892-4530
892-4536 • 894-1043 • 894-1525
Fax.: 892-2795 Email: msi@vasia.com

ANG TAN GOLF CLUB & SHARES, INC.
BUYING, SELLING, PLAYING RIGHTS
connie ang
Trading Mgr./Real Estate Broker
24 HOURS TEL. NOS:
533-0640 • 535-0448
532-7514
Cell: 0906-371-5954



Bigwoods Transport Company
Quality american Trucks
731 Romualdez St., Manila 02-522-8765 /66
www.bigwoodstrucks.com
New Arrivals III 9700, III 9670, Freightliner 6 & 10 Wheeler Cabovers, Cummins Mechanical, Spring Susp.



UP MBA
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
The UP Master of Business Administration (MBA) Program provides a foundation for a career in middle and upper management in business. The program offers a mix of functional disciplines in management with courses in the management of technology and innovation as well as in general management. The program is also designed to allow students to acquire knowledge and skills in specialized management areas through elective courses which comprise a third of total course requirements. Part-time students can complete the program in 2.5 years. Full-time (day) students need 1.5 years.
University of the Philippines-Diliman
MBA ADMISSION SY 2006-2007
BASIC QUALIFICATIONS: Bachelor's degree (any field), work experience, two recommendations, and acceptable admission test scores.
ADMISSION TEST: Sunday, February 19, 2006.
APPLICATION PERIOD: Deadline of Submission of Application Form on February 17, 2006.
Scholarships and Student Exchange
(Full-time MBA Students)
Fifteen scholarships are available.
Four slots for student exchange programs in France, Hungary and the U.S.
For inquiries, contact:
Program Director, Master's Program
College of Business Administration
UP Diliman, Quezon City
Phone: 928-4571 to 76 and 927-0488 (telefax)
Email: mba@up.edu.ph

OFFICE
Canon iR-1210
• Digital Copier & Printer
• 12 copies per minute
• Can be hooked to a computer
P39,950
olivetti
COPIA 9017 17 cpm (A4) - Max copy size A3 - Zoom 50 - 200 % ▸ P52,500
OFX-560 Phone / Ink-Jet Fax Answering Machine ▸ P6,950
FAX-LAB 210 - Phone / Fax - Bubble Ink-Jet ▸ P7,950
LINEA 198 19.2" ▸ P20,000
Bank Passbook Printer PR2S-10E ▸ P55,000
Summa 32 EU 12-digit fluorescent - Impact, two colors ▸ P4,550
Logos 584 - 14 digit fluorescent impact printer ▸ P6,950
MEDIA DESTROYER MD-800 Shred Type: Cross-Cut Shred Width: 4 x 32 mm P8,650 - Shreds papers, CDs, floppy disks and credit cards
CHECK WRITER DB-310 - LCD Display - Built in Five Different Currency Symbols P 6,950
DIGITAL VIDEO RECORDER (CCTV SYSTEM) GDV-04A 80 GB P28,000 200 GB P35,000 Stand-alone, 4-Channel DVR Real-Time Recording with PLAY/REPLAY Function
CURRENCY COUNTER MR-05IE P12,500
TIME RECORDERS
CS-618 Mini Tiger LCD Display Dot matrix Print ▸ P8,950
CS-566 LCD Display Two Color ▸ P12,750
CS-816 Dot Matrix Print Two-color Analog Display ▸ P11,550
CS-818 Dot Matrix Print Two-color Large LCD Display ▸ P11,550
CALCULATORS
P3,350 ◂ 3727 PD Display 12 digit VFD Digitron Printer Ink Ribbon (EPSON Character Wheel Selection)
1414 PDN ▸ P6,950 Display 14 digit VFD Digitron Printer Ink Ribbon (EPSON Character Wheel Selection)
CALCULATOR NIKKO 8112 DP 12-Digit Large LED Display 2-Color Ink Ribbon Printer ▸ P3,350
CCTV SYSTEM OFFICE and SANYO
www.elitemachinesinc.com
EXCLUSIVE DISTRIBUTOR:
ELITE MACHINES, INC
Elite Building, 20 Araneta Ave. Ext., Quezon City Connecting all departments 4110089 · 4110189 7328045 · 7328050 7328055 · 7328061 · 7328063 · 7328064
G/F, LRDC Bldg., 22 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City 8877238 /56 /68 /80 /95 /96 8880698
Rm. 301 Pacific Bldg., 460 Quintin Paredes corner Gandara Sts., Binondo, Manila 2476012 · 2474030 /31 /32 /33 Fax. 2473892
Espiritu Building, 33 Gen. Maxilom Ave. Cebu City (032) 2336711 to 16 Fax: (032) 2336718 or 25
AUTHORIZED DEALER: GOLDSTAR
Door 2, Lua Bldg., Quirino Ave. cor. J.P. Laurel St., Davao City Tel. (082) 2270321-23 Fax (082) 2270321

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8978425 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 8978425
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5224406 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The Widest Reaching Classifieds

RATES
P245 per column centimeter
P75 per line
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINES
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Mondays to Saturdays
12:00 noon
Day before publication
Sundays
12:00 noon
every Thursday

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

MEDICAL

PHYSICIAN/SURGEON

RAPID Tx VD-STD
Ex. SWEAT PIMPLES KELOID
ALLERGY WARTS SKIN PEEL
15 Annapolis Greenhills
Call 7276124 - 25 9am-7pm

VDSTD CLINIC COMP LAB
T 8175071 Matrinco Bldg
2178 P.Tamo Mktl City

GARMA CLINIC
VD SPECIALIST
VD GONORRHEA, WARTS
SYPHILIS, STD, HERPES
ADULT CIRCUMCISION
Painless, Bloodless
BOLITAS, SKIN DISEASES
ALLERGIES, VAGINAL REPAIR,
RE-CURRENT UTI
ALMORANAS, ERECTION
PROBLEMS
INFERTILITY/IMPOTENCE
MOLE/CYST/SCAR REMOVAL
KELOID/PAP SMEAR
COMPLETE LABORATORY
Garma Bldg., No. 8 Purdue St.,
Cubao, Q.C.
OPEN 9 AM to 5 PM MON. to SAT.
TEL. NOS. 4392704 / 9139474
4373898

PERSONAL

TUTORIAL LESSONS

MENTORSPLUS 9319767

HOUSEHOLD

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

Direct Maid Yaya Midwife7289060

A'A MAIDS/YAYA 4386920

DOLE ACCREDITED AVAILABLE YAYA MAID TEL 5621236 / 5620020

Good Maid Yaya Driver 9957034

Help Agency 5328376 • 5321947

HOME EXPERT
YAYA/HMAIDS/F.DRIVER
773-8998•0918-7095816•

MARSIFOR AGENCY 4373040

Trusted Maids Yaya Driver7572089

Yaya, Cook H'maid 8957507

IVYLANA MAIDS 4331431 YAYA 4335931

LIPAT BAHAY

•731-6833•LIPAT

L-BAHAY 9206784 4540520

•Cheap 9260424/09163416775

•P1300/TRIP 742-14-57

TIPID LIPAT 681-7623

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

MAKATI

Lots, H&L C5 nr Fort
1.5M-14M Nr McKinley Hills 4-5br 10% DP or 3Yrs No Int or No DP 10mins Fr. Ayala 0917-8313226

MANDALUYONG

4Sale 8Wack' 174m² 3BR 3 1/2 TB 6Flr 2PKG Upgraded Fully Furn •0917-8865134•

NEAR SHAW BLVD
BnewThse/3stry/3br/3-4tb maids1-2grgeP3.780M8903461

MARIKINA

Bnew 4br3tb jacuzi 3.2M 9487112

CAVITE

PAMELA 682K TEL5296117

SILANG 640K 09193075017

CONDO/TWNHSE

MANDALUYONG

CONDO, BNEW, 09192189817

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

1.4M C5 Nr The Fort
13T/mo. or 3Yrs. No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD 2-4BR 15mln Fr Mktl 0917-8169849

CONDO NR GLOBAL CITY 32SQM UP 1.1M UP RFO 2BR SHERYL TAN 0918-3691064

MAKATI CONDO
RENT / SALE : MANY CHOICES
READY FOR OCCUPANCY
843-0887 / 887-5318
www.condo.com.ph
The Condo Specialist

LOT

QUEZON CITY

LA VISTA Mansion type P30M part SWAP of small QC prop+cash Call 426-5650 • 929-1832 • 0919-8212235

FARM/FISHPEN/RAWLANDS

2.9HA Farm Lot Sto. Niño Lipa •0917-8865134•

Balsik Hermosa Bataan 24,312m² 300/m² w/47 Mango Trees & Hse Clean Title Miles 09216722866 09287849699

FACTORY/WHSE

Whse/Piggery(Tabang)2500m² @P2500 /m² w/hsetrees 09178511193

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL

LOT 4 LONG TERM LEASE
SIXTO ANTONIO PASIG
GUD LOCATION 9209516043

HOUSE

PASAY

PASAY EDSA 1-2BR 2318973

RIZAL

ANTPLO Reslhse Daily Wkly Rates Ideal 4 Wedding Parties, Retreats T-9121163/09207169801

APARTMENT

QUEZON CITY

CUBAO U&D 2BR P8T 9121163

WAREHOUSE/FACTORY

PASIG 1000m² 0917-8035948

ROOM & BOARD

•FURNISH PASAY 8872865•

MAKATI

Mkti nr Ayala P1T Ldy 8974697

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

MALATE MLA 526-8048/49

Ofc/Condo/Hse 4 Rent/Sale 8925201;8921085;8921281

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

MAKATI

Mkt/Mla Condo Sale/Rent 0917-6266516 • 610-1770

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

HONDA

1998 HONDA CRV 4X4 A/T P500T W/55,000KMS CALL JUN OR JOEL 638-3139

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

PERFECT LOGISTICS PHILS. INC.

Delica - P220,000.00
Caravan - P260,000.00
Special Arrangements for
SEAMAN, PILOT, OFW & BALIKBAYAN
Guarranteed Lowest Price
No Hidden Cost and A - 1 Condition
Financing Available
(02) 249 - 1818 / 249 - 1831
0917 - 8579153 / 0926 - 6911125
0916 - 2069813 / 0918 - 886075

PARTS & ACCESSORIES

QUICK SERVICE!8AM -7PM!
EFI; ENGINE TUNE-UP
WHEEL ALIGN;BALANCING
CREDIT CARDS HONORED
FREE AFTER SALES SERVICE
RUBBERVOLT 36 WEST AVE
77 VIS AV. 115 MINDAV QC
371-6783 / 920-1794 / 455-6093 loc 20

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

Affordable Rent a Car Hiace, Vios, Corolla Low Rates 0920-9518097

Carlines Rent a Car Vans Coaster 4LOL Xpdtn U-Drive Cars & Driver Services 813-1975 8131976 8103466

BrdalCarsVans CstrBus 4229296

Cheap Van 9330311;9348411

•FRANCIS CAR RENTAL•
ALL CARS U/DRIVE W/DRIVER
T-8334476;7291858 CEL 09198985176

P800/L3 9136710 / 4333682

RENT A VAN
0917-5444721 • 642-4405

REVO w/driver 9272821

ABC CARS & VANS
AUV•4 x 4•CRV
MLA: 536-8822 • 303-9789
Q.C.: 426-2278 • 426-4084

CAR LOAN

1% Auto Easy 5344441

1% AUTOLOAN 788-0361

1% Car Lending 656-0140
United Tree Car Loan Corp.

1% CARLOAN 373-6519

1% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

1% w/out taking car 5315577

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOAN

1% w/out taking car 7262780

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% easy carloan 7815352/55

1.5% w/o taking Car 7228942-43

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

2% W/O TAKING CAR 7880183-84

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

PETS

Excint Dog Sch 0919-2050952

WANTED TO BUY

Buying Rolex
watch or any fine Swiss Watch
Fast Cash Call 09185113079

"PROFESSIONAL & CREDIBLE"
WE BUY USED
SWISS WATCHES
SECONDO 2F GLORIETTA 1 / 8940282
SWISS WATCH LOANS
LOW 5% INTEREST
AGENCIA DE MAKATI 889-7956

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

WANTED TO BUY

A NAME YOU CAN TRUST!
MANILA WATCH EXCHANGE
BUY • SELL • PAWN
ROLEX+OTHERS
& OTHER SWISS WATCHES
DIAMONDS / JEWELRY
HI-APPRAISAL/FAST CASH
REPAIR/POLISH ANY WATCH
T#804-0484 • 834-2886

WE BUY AT HIGH PRICE
ROLEX
5646593 5897041
5633742 0917-8473744

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

I HEREBY NOTICE THE PUBLIC THAT THE ESTATE OF FRANCISCO E. MUNOZ SR. WAS EXTRAJUDICIALLY DIVIDED TO HIS HEIRS NOTARIZED BY ATTY. HECTOR B. CENTENO OF QUEZON CITY WITH DOC. NO. 339, PAGE NO. 68, BOOK NO. 17-G, SERIES OF 2005 (PDI- JAN. 10, 17 & 24, 2006)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that the Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. A Shares Cert. No. 325132-708 shares issued on 04/10/1989 & B Shares No. 285681-100 shares issued on 04 /10/1989 under Alberto Manahan were declared lost. If no contest received, new certificates will be issued. (PDI- JAN. 03, 10 & 17, 2006)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Marketing Managers 09178463228

RTW CONSIGN 0917-8830002

BUSINESS FOR SALE

Barbershop 280T BFHomes 5 Chairs 09178917363

Restaurant w/ good income near PRC J.P. Rizal, Makati 5646593 5897041 09178473744

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

Urgent Need!
Interior Designer email CV horizonlineinterior@yahoo.com

MALE/FEMALE

REG'D CIVIL ENGR.
w/at least 5yrs. exp. 534-3147

$$ URGENTLY NEEDED $$ BAND W/ 5 MEMBERS (4FEMALE AND 1 MALE) TEXT OR CALL •0920-6262141 / 498-1172•

SICK AG looking for dealers in Visayas and Mindanao

SICK AG is one of the world's leading producers of sensors and sensor solutions for industrial applications. It is a technology and market leader in both factory and process automation. SICK Sensors are manufactured in Germany.

We are looking for potential dealers in the Visayas and Mindanao region for SICK Products.

We will provide a comprehensive After Sales Support on all SICK products including warranty, training and product launches.

Interested parties may send your company profiles to the following address:

Unit A, 23rd Floor, Galleria Regency
ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center
Pasig City
Email: sick_ph@pacific.net.ph

PLH
Pacific Link Healthcare ...
Georgia, USA
WE ARE IN NEED OF 1000 NURSES

Get your U.S. License

Guaranteed WAY to U.S.A. !!!
EXPERIENCE not REQUIRED
CGFNS not REQUIRED
CALL OR TEXT *NOW* before it's TOO LATE!!!

IMMIGRANT VISA
NOW AVAILABLE for ALL
NURSES & PT's including
New GRADS!!!

KIMOBO
INTERNATIONAL
PERSONNEL SERVICES,
INCORPORATED
POEA-535LB-042804-R

Unit 401 C Pacific Corporate Center
131 West Avenue, Quezon City
(63) 373-5191 /374-6752
09209082675 / 09225279903 / 09182083384
No fees to be collected
Beware of Illegal Recruiter

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, the recognized leader in the newspaper industry with its **balanced news and fearless views** is committed to helping our trade partners achieve its business goals and serving the community via generation of employment.

We are in need of

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SUPERVISORS

to work for our Distributor Partner in the areas of Pampanga, Bataan, Tarlac, Nueva Ecija and Zambales.

JOB DESCRIPTION:
4 **Will handle a sub-distributor partner to grow the business.**

QUALIFICATIONS:
+ College graduates from the localities;
+ Highly motivated; Aggressive; Hardworking;
+ Must possess excellent oral and written communication skills both in English and Filipino;
+ Preferably Male, willing to work on a graveyard shift, fast-paced, dynamic and flexible environment.

p Background in sales is not necessary, but a plus..

Send your *Resume* to **GQY Distribution Group Inc.** at
GQY Distributors Inc., Dolores Homesite Extension, Dolores,
San Fernando Pampanga

or call/fax 045-9614048 and look for **Mr. Mar Manabat or Mr. Jess Yap.**
You can email it to
jessy@mail.irnet.net.ph or qdydistribution.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

NOTICE TO THE DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED RURAL BANK OF ZAMBOANGUITA (NEGROS ORIENTAL), INC.

1. Pursuant to Monetary Board Resolution No. 12 dated January 5, 2006 ordering the closure of the Rural Bank of Zamboanguita (Negros Oriental), Inc. (RBZI), the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) will start its operations for the servicing of claims for insured deposits in the closed RBZI on Wednesday, January 11, 2006.

2. Depositors are requested to proceed directly to the premises of RBZI where they can file their claims with the PDIC representatives from January 11 to January 27, 2006, during office hours (8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.), Monday to Friday.

   After the said date, all depositors can file their claims personally at the PDIC Claims Counter, 6th Floor, SSS BLDG, Ayala Avenue corner V.A. Rufino St., Makati City from Monday to Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. or by mail to:

   The Manager
   Claims Processing Department
   Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation
   2228 Chino Roces Avenue
   1231 Makati City

3. Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to the PDIC representatives when filing their claims:

   a. Original evidence of deposit such as Savings Passbook, Certificate of Time Deposit, or Bank Statement including Unused Checks.
   b. Two (2) latest identification cards/documents (IDs) with depositor's signature.

Other documents may be required by the PDIC representatives in the course of their processing of claims filed.

4. Pursuant to the provision of R.A. 3591, as amended by R.A. 9302, the prescriptive date (last day) for filing claims for insured deposits in the closed Rural Bank of Zamboanguita (Negros Oriental), Inc. is on January 7, 2008. After January 7, 2008, PDIC as insurer, shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the said closed bank.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

(PDI - January 10, 17 & 24, 2006)

Your career might only be a click of the mouse away.

JOB Market ONLINE

Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer and visit it online at www.jobmarketonline.com

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 897-8425 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 897-8425
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5224406 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

OBITUARIES

The Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic
wish to announce the entrance into eternal life of

Sister Marie Lorraine Carney, M.M.

At the Maryknoll Sisters Center in New York
on January 6, 2006

She taught at Maryknoll College Grade School
and was principal of St. James Academy, Malabon.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

DR. NESTOR MERCADO FELICIANO

President of Misamis University

wish to express our profound gratitude
for the spontaneous love, sympathy and support that all of you
have shown during our time of grief.

We are humbly grateful and find strength in knowing
that he touched so many lives in his concern for others.

He will continue living on in our hearts and through the lives
we lead – a testament to his legacy of love, compassion,
humility and generosity.

Thank you very much

Wife **Sonia**
Sisters **Natividad** and **Gloria**
Children **Becky, Wendy, Karen, Dina, Raoul** and **Dario**
In-laws, grandchildren and other relatives

"In peace I shall both lie down and sleep,
for you alone, Lord make me secure..."
(Psalm 4:9)

Judge
NATIVIDAD F. IGNACIO

Peacefully joined our Lord
on January 8, 2006 at the age of 85.

Her bereaved family, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel 5, Garden of Memories Memorial Chapels, Bagong Calzada, Pateros, Metro Manila.

Interment is tentatively scheduled on Thursday, January 12, 2006 at Tipas Catholic Cemetery after the 2:00 p.m. Holy Mass.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS
FREE OBIT DESIGN

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS
and bank-to-bank payments

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
Tel. Nos. Q.C.: 712-3001 • 743-6502
Manila: 711-6931 to 35

NAME OF DECEASED	PLACE OF VIEWING	INTERMENT/CREMATION DATE & TIME	INTERMENT/CREMATION PLACE
Atty. Antonio G. Dumlao	Chapel A-1, Q.C.	01/10/06; 9:00 a.m.	Holy Cross Mem. Park
Justice Cecilia Palma	Mt. Carmel Church	01/02/06; after the 1:00 p.m. Mass	Loyola Mem. Park Marikina

---

"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."
Matthew 11:28

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC ESTATES AUTHORITY
7th Floor LEGASPI TOWERS 200, PASEO DE ROXAS
CITY OF MAKATI, METRO MANILA
TELEPHONE NUMBERS: 817-47-11 • 817-47-12 • 817-47-13
817-5017 • 817-5018 • 817-5014 • 813-1441/46
FAX (632) 815-2662 • 815-2660 • 817-3127
ZIP CODE 1226

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND BID

1. The **PHILIPPINE RECLAMATION AUTHORITY** (formerly Public Estates Authority) is inviting all interested parties to prequalify and bid for the lease of twelve (12) pre-selected sites for outdoor billboard advertising along the landstrip of Coastal Road from Barangay Tambo, Parañaque to Barangay Ilaya, Las Piñas City.
2. Qualified Bidders
   a. Any Filipino citizen, of legal age, and
   b. Any partnership, association or corporation, public or private of which at least 70% of the capital stock or of any interest in said capital stock belongs wholly to citizens of the Philippines and which is organized and constituted under the laws of the Philippines.
3. Interested qualified parties may obtain the Terms of Reference and Bid Documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of THREE THOUSAND PESOS (P3,000.00) in cash or Manager's/Cashier's check starting **December 22, 2005** until **January 24, 2006** from **9:00 AM to 5:00 PM** at the Marketing Department, 7th Floor Legaspi Towers 200, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.
4. The first pre-bid conference is scheduled on **January 18, 2006** at **2:00 PM** at the PRA Conference Room, 8th Floor, Legaspi Towers 200, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.
5. Required pre-qualification documents and duly accomplished Bid Documents prescribed in the Terms of Reference shall be submitted to the PRA Real Estates Bids and Awards Committee (PREBAC) on **January 25, 2006** on or before **1:00 PM**. Public opening of bids shall follow at **1:30 PM** of the same day.
6. For further information, inquiries may be made to the Marketing Department in the above address at telephone numbers 817-4711 to 13 (trunk line) and 813-7104 (direct line)

(Sgd.) **TEODORICO C. TAGUINOD**
General Manager/CEO

(PDI-Dec. 16, 19, 28, 2005; Jan. 5, 10 & 16, 2006)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
Western Visayas Cluster
Bacolod City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
JANITORIAL SERVICES

Two-year Janitorial Services for SSS Western Visayas Cluster

1 The *SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM WESTERN VISAYAS CLUSTER*, through its 2005-2007 Building Maintenance/Repair-Janitorial Services, intends to apply the sum of Php 4,308,435.79 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Two-year Janitorial Services. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

2. The *SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for Janitorial Services - *[Twenty Three (23) Janitorial service personnel for distribution to SSS Western Visayas Branches, as follows, Bacolod (10), Bago (1), Sagay (1), Kabankalan (1), Victorias (1), San Carlos (1), Iloilo (3), Antique (1), Aklan (1), Roxas (1), Bais (1), Dumaguete (1)]* required within a two-year period after contract signing. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, Instruction to Bidders (ITB).

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section I of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the *SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM, Western Visayas Cluster, Bacolod City* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of *Php 1,000.00*. The method of payment will be on a cash basis, payable at the SSS Cashiering Section, Ground Floor, SSS Bacolod Branch Bldg., upon accomplishment of SSS Form R-6. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

6. The *SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on *January 27, 2006, 2:00 p.m.*, at the Conference Room, 2nd Floor, SSS Bacolod Branch Bldg., Lacson Street, Bacolod City.

7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before *8:30 a.m. of February 10, 2006*. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in Cash or Manager's/Cashier's check payable to the Social Security System amounting to Php 43,084.35 (1% of ABC). Late Bids shall not be accepted.

8. Bid opening shall be on *February 10, 2006, 9:30 a.m.* at the Conference Room, 2nd Floor, SSS Bacolod Branch Bldg., Lacson Street, Bacolod City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

9. The *SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

The Secretariat
Bid and Awards Committee - WV Cluster
Administrative Section,
2nd Floor, SSS Building
Lacson Street, Bacolod City
Tel # (034) 709-0880, (034) 435-0161
Facsimile number – (034) 434-5130

(Sgd.) **ATTY. MA. ELENA M. LOCSIN**
BAC-WV Chairperson

(PDI - Jan. 10, 2006)

WANTED SEAMEN!!!

CRUDE/PRODUCT/CHEMICAL TANKER EXPERIENCED
(Principal's Accreditation Cert. No. 000813)

WAGES AND CONDITION EFFECTIVE 01 JANUARY 2006

MASTER
(Salary - US$ 6,341 per month)

CHIEF OFFICER
(Salary - US$ 4,245 per month)

SECOND OFFICER
(Salary - US$ 2,698 per month)

THIRD OFFICER
(Salary - US$ 2,335 per month)

CHIEF ENGINEER
(Salary - US$ 6,039 per month)

1st ASST. ENGINEER
(Salary - US$ 4,000 per month)

2nd ASST. ENGINEER
(Salary - US$ 2,698 per month)

3rd ASST. ENGINEER
(Salary - US$ 2,335 per month)

ELECTRICIAN
(Salary - US$ 2,698 per month)

PUMPMAN
(Salary - US$ 1,737 per month)

FITTER
(Salary - US$ 1,737 per month)

AMOSUP BENEFITS + COMPANY BONUSES
Your career advancement is assured!!
Full Filipino Crew!

REPORT TO:
OSG SHIP MANAGEMENT MANILA, INC.
Suite 1208 Ermita Center Bldg., 1350 Roxas Blvd., Manila
TEL. NOS. 536-3496 / 536-2150
POEA License No. 001-SB-042005-UL

"This ad is approved by POEA"
"Mag-ingat sa mga illegal recruiters"
No Fees to be collected!

More workers put up own business in 2005

EMPLOYMENT IN 2005 WAS marked with the rise in self-employment as more workers started their own business enterprises last year, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) today said.

A report of the Bureau of Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics (BLES) to Labor and Employment Secretary Patricia A. Sto. Tomas revealed that employment creation by class of workers in October 2005 was concentrated mainly among own-account or self-employed workers.

The Labstat Updates by BLES culled from the October 2005 Labor Force Survey (LFS) of the National Statistics Office (NSO) showed that the number of self-employed workers grew by 515,000 or 4.4 percent from 11.642 million in October 2004 to 12.2 million in the same period in 2005.

The increment was more than four times the increase in the number of wage and salaried workers which rose only by 0.9 percent from 16.4 million in 2004 to 16.55 million in 2005.

The biggest increment by class of worker, however, occurred among unpaid family workers, at 12.9 percent from 3.7 million in 2004 to 4.2 million in 2005. The rise is concentrated in agriculture, which experienced a recovery last year.

Meanwhile, six rural and women workers associations in Region 2 (Cagayan Valley) received a total of P372,000 in livelihood funds under the DOLE's PRESEED (Promotion of Rural Employment through Self-Employment and Entrepreneurship Development) program.

DOLE-Region 2 Director Nathaniel Lacambra said that the beneficiaries' associations have been organized by the DOLE in line with its efforts to assist and economically empower workers, including women in rural areas.

He said that the beneficiaries shall use this financial assistance in various entrepreneurial projects such as mushroom culture and processing, bio-organic fertilizer production, cassava cake manufacturing, peanut processing, fish processing, and native cakes making.

POEA
24-HR HOTLINES
722-1144 • 722-1155

TDG reaffirms partnership with GlobeSolutions

SEVERAL MEMBER COMPANIES OF the Asia-based conglomerate Transnational Diversified Group (TDG) have recently reaffirmed their partnership with leading business communication solutions providers GlobeSolutions and GlobeQUEST.

Some of the companies currently availing of GlobeSolutions and GlobeQUEST services include Easycall, Asiana Philippines, NYK Fil-Japan, E-Performax Contact Centers, NYK Logistics, TDG Logistics, NCT Transnational Corporation, Yusen Air Services, and Adventure Tours and Travel. The partnership is intended to provide these companies with a comprehensive package of wireless and wireline communication services that can efficiently meet various business needs.

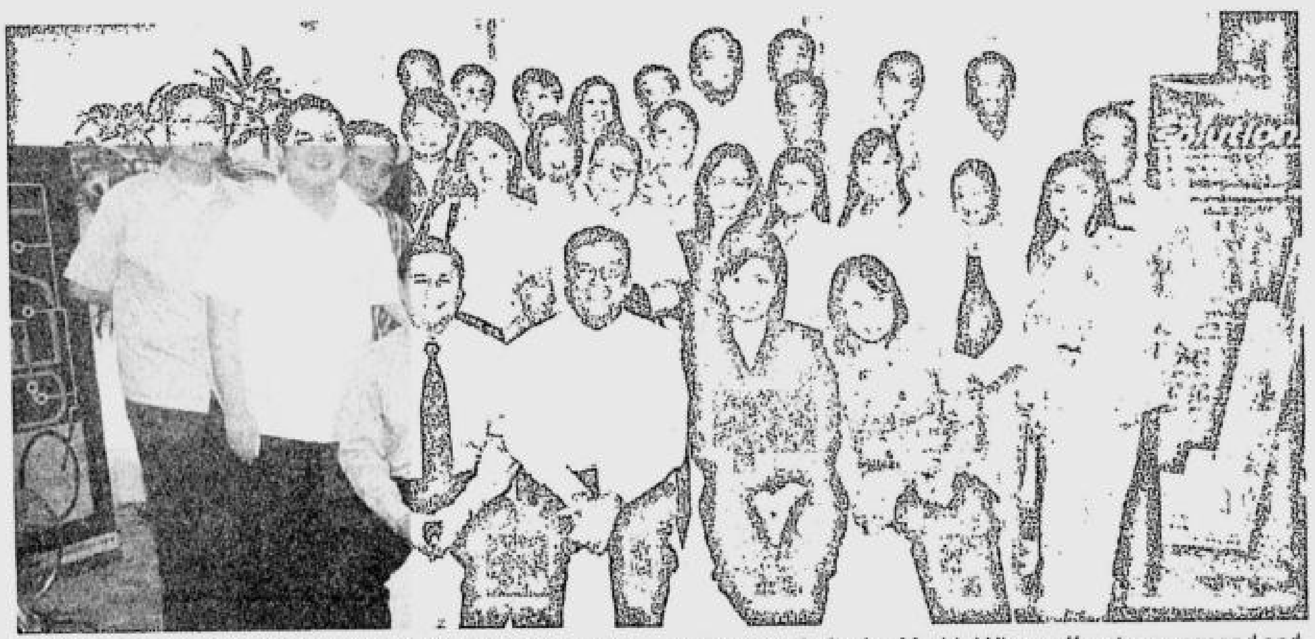
Globe Telecom enterprise business group head Gil B. Genio lauded the continuing partnership with TDG as an example of the many ways by which mobile technology can serve as an effective business tool. "We firmly believe in the power of telecommunications to empower many businesses," he said. "It is important for dynamic companies in highly competitive industries, like those under the TDG umbrella, to harness the power of technology and use it to boost their business performance."

At a product roadshow attended by representatives of several TDG companies, GlobeSolutions and data services provider GlobeQUEST (the corporate services arm of Globe subsidiary Innove Communications) presented their latest line-up of services. These include messaging solutions like TxtConnect and TxtHotline, enterprise mobility solutions such as BlackBerry, Tracker CE and Visibility, internet data center networks and unified messaging systems.

Among those present at the event were Asiana Philippines general manager Hyun Il Kim; Gil Galang, IT head for TDG's Logistics Group; Ton Tiu, senior projects manager for E-Performax Contact Centers; Ferdinand Abano, VP for IT at E-Performax Contact Centers; Ed Abalos of Transnational E Business; Melissa Balatbat of NYK Logistics; Julius Lansang of NYK Fil Ship; and Tess Decena of NYK Fil Japan. They were welcomed by the GlobeSolutions team headed by Dan S. David (head of corporate wireless business), Maridol D. Ylanan (head of sales) and Paolo C. Lopez (head of VAS), along with GlobeQUEST sales head Aries Sayson.

TDG has over 30 member companies that are key players in diverse fields including logistics, airlines and travel services, information and communications technology, securities and investments, real estate, international trade, ship management, and manpower training. It currently employs about 2,000 land-based employees and deploys around 7,000 seafarers and shipping crew worldwide.

GlobeSolutions provides efficient and cost-effective solutions for your company's business communication needs. For inquiries, call the GlobeSolutions hotline at 730-1999 or email globesolutions@globetel.com.ph.



GLOBE head of enterprise business Gil Genio, head of corporate business Dan David (last row, sixth and seventh from left), GlobeQUEST head of sales Aries Sayson and GlobeSolutions head of sales Maridol Ylanan (front row, second and third from left) with representatives from Globe and their partners from the TDG group of companies.

DLSU SIGNS UP FOR UCPB'S ELECTRONIC BANKING SERVICES

De La Salle University (DLSU) has partnered with UCPB to provide more convenient service to students and parents and raise more funds for scholarships. UCPB's Online Transaction Viewing facility will provide DLSU with an electronic facility to make enrollment more convenient for students and parents via UCPB branches and ATMs. On the other hand, UCPB's Paymate Collection facility for alumni will serve as a medium for electronic donation for scholarships. Shown signing the memoranda of agreement are (seated from left): DLSU vice president for academics and research Dr. Julius Maridable, DLSU executive vice president Dr. Carmelita Quebengco, UCPB president and chief executive officer Jose Querubin, and UCPB senior executive vice president and chief operating officer Antonio Cailao. Witnessing the signing are (standing from left): DLSU controller Francisco De La Cruz Jr., DLSU assistant vice president for academic services Agnes Yuhico, UCPB executive vice president Evangelina Samonte and UCPB senior vice president Sebastian Santiago III.

Probiotics for festive indulgence without the guilt

GRAZING ON PARTY FOOD IS SO EASY AND, well, you can always sort it out with your New Year resolutions, but the next morning you regret it as you feel bloated and sluggish. So what can you do?

If you are prone to digestive upset, a course of Probiotics started before the holiday season could go a long way towards helping. Probiotics is the collective term for friendly bacteria that inhabit our digestive tract, from top to bottom. They do many important jobs in our body. These beneficial bacteria will help to normalize bacterial colonies in the large bowel and reduce gas and bloating. A good Probiotics supplement will include prebiotics, such as FOS (fructo-oligosaccharide) which acts as food for the beneficial bacteria and helps them to get established more quickly. Lactobacilli and Bifido Probiotics combination in microencapsulated form are best used, because of their stability, meaning that what's stated on the label is what you end up taking (instead of the bacteria deteriorating as many bacterial supplements do). Lactobacillus acidophilus also, has a good track record against the 'ulcer bug' Helicobacter pylori and can help reduce damaged gut lining thus protecting against ulceration.

A new multi-strain Probiotics developed from England was recently introduced. Protexin Natural Care, is an advanced microencapsulated Probiotics formulation developed for better stability and consistent efficacy.

We should be taking Protexin during or after our meals because Probiotics produce basic enzymes that are naturally present and they help digest up to 90 percent of the food eaten and aging slows down the digestive power of our body, but Probiotics can return that power to normal.

Finally, halitosis (bad breath) is a common complaint that accompanies digestive problems. Did you know that taking Probiotics can help eliminate halitosis due to digestive problems? With regular intake of Protexin, there is no need to avoid that kiss after the holidays.

One thing that really helps a hangover (apart from abstinence) is a tablet of Protexin Probiotics - before, during or after drinking before you to go to bed. Most of the side effects of extra alcohol are actually the effects of dehydration: dry mouth, thirst, crashing headache.

For more information on Protexin, contact tel. nos. 02-8099848 or mobile 0922-888-2600 or visit the website, www.prebiotech.net.

2,000 MORE WAYS TO PAY PSBANK LOANS

PSBank has provided the customer with another fast and convenient means of paying loans through PSBank, Metrobank and BancNet automated teller machines (ATM) nationwide. Consumer loan products which can be paid through ATMs include PSBank Autoloan, PSBank Flexiloan, PSBank Construction Loan, PSBank Home Credit Line, PSBank Home Rate Protect, PSBank Money Card and PSBank SME Business Credit Line. Now PSBank loan clients can pay among 2,000 PSBank, Metrobank and BancNet ATMs. To top it all, they can even pay outside banking hours and even on weekends.

NBS ISKULAKBAY WINNERS DRIVE WITH JAZZ

Six lucky individuals drove away with brand-new Honda Jazz as National Book Store awarded the winners of the Back-to-School Iskulakbay Raffle Promo. The winners, Razzel Arceo, Hartatik Liem, Geohari Hamoy, Margarita Grande, Precious Ann Sosa and Kevin Rey Perales, were drawn from over a million raffle entries from Metro Manila, Luzon and Visayas-Mindanao areas. The winners were also given P25,000 worth of National Book Store gift certificates which they donated to their favorite schools. Shown are the NBS promo winners (from left): Margarita Grande, Precious Ann Sosa, Kevin Rey Perales, Razzel Arceo and Hartatik Liem.

New course on video at MFI

MERALCO FOUNDATION INSTITUTE (MFI) HAS STARTED ACCEPTING applicants/enrollees for the Home Video Editing Course where students will learn how to transfer from tapes to VCDs/DVDs; how to trim, cut part of video; enhance video color, create slow motions or strobe effects, and rearrange scenes from the video clips. Other advantages include: how to adjust audio volume, provide voice-over, insert favorite music or mp3 with ease, insert background sound or music, insert captions or titles, put menu chapters, create a potential business in a matter of weeks. Anyone can enroll. If you are a computer user, loves to shoot videos or still photos, a video enthusiast or just a beginner, a potential business entrepreneur, etc. The course requires 20 hours of intense hands-on training. Schedules for public run encounter: every Saturdays at 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.; every Monday to Thursday at 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Customized schedules for 6 or more participants can also be accommodated. For more information, ask for Mavic or Jen of the Development Department at 632-0756 to 67; or visit Meralco Foundation Institute at MFI Bldg. on Ortigas Ave. in Pasig.

Aktivade joins 2005 Annual Fitness Convention

PHYSICAL FITNESS IS A KEY ELEMENT to development, it allows individuals to attain their goals and enjoy life to the fullest.

Aktivade, the fast growing favorite thirst quencher of athletes and people on the go, is a dedicated advocate of physical fitness. One way of showing its commitment is by sponsoring the recently concluded Annual Fitness Convention at the AFP New Officers Club, Fort Bonifacio in Taguig City.

Around 300 to 500 athletes, fitness enthusiasts, coaches, athletic trainers, PE teachers, group exercise instructors, personal trainers, physical therapists, nutritionists and fitness business managers and owners from all over the country participated in this timely event.

The event was designed to spread the good news of health and fitness through education. It also served as a great opportunity for Filipinos to acquaint themselves with the latest fitness programs of other countries. Seminars and workshops were conducted during the two-day convention wherein local and international fitness experts shared their expert views and opinions regarding physical fitness.

Exercising and engagement in sports are recommended ways of attaining physical fitness and Aktivade makes a dependable fitness buddy. Aktivade helps in keeping people physically and physiologically fit with its ideal balance of electrolytes, carbohydrates, and vitamin C. It is the ideal drink as it aids in quickly restoring lost fluid, minerals and energy to prevent dehydration.

The Annual Fitness Convention is the brainchild of the Association of Fitness Professionals of the Philippines, a non-stock, non-profit association that is now on its 15th year of commitment to the cause of professionalizing and uplifting the standards of the fitness industry in the country. For more details about Aktivade Thirst Quencher, check out www.aktivade.com.

Fitness First Fairview soon to open

FITNESS FIRST, THE NO. 1 global Fitness Company will open its twelfth club in the Philippines. The new club will be located at SM City Fairview and is et to invigorate the fitness scene this side of the Metropolis this 2006.

Fitness First offers to everyone, no matter what his or her size, shape and ability, the opportunity to improve his or her level of fitness and have fun -all at an affordable price.

Upon entering any Fitness First club, members notice the difference. The surroundings are comfortable and friendly with like-minded individuals striving to reach their own personal goals, knowing that they are not in competition with anyone but themselves.

Fitness First provides the best facilities, from the cardio theatre, to the group exercise studios, to the latest strength training, core and cardio equipment, even with the luxurious sauna and steam, there is no question that they are far ahead of competition.

The club also offers a Passport membership which allows access to more than 400 clubs in Asia and Europe.

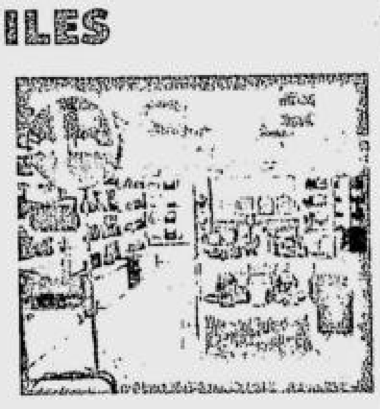
Pioneer membership for Fitness First Fairview are now available, call 848-80000 today for inquiries and reservations. You can also check out the website at www.fitnessfirst.com.ph for more information on its clubs in Alabang, Greenhills, ABS-CBN, Fort Bonifacio, RSC-Makati, Eastwood City, Robinsons Metro East, Ayala Center Cebu, Ortigas, Manila and Fitness First Plus at RCBC Plaza.

HOLIDAY FUN WITH MINISTOP'S MINNI AND TOPPER

Ministop mascots Minni and Topper recently treated kids from the GMA Kapuso Foundation to an afternoon of fun and merriment through a Christmas bash held at the Party Room of Dreamscape in Robinson's Galleria. The event, which was especially held for children from impoverished families in Bulacan, featured a storytelling session by Rod Hebres of the Children's Library, delicious Ministop snacks, party games and gifts. Dressed up as Ministop's crew, Minni and Topper entertained the kids in the manner that all regular Ministop personnel are trained: accommodating, friendly and service-oriented.

Product FILES

Duty Free launches Segue Boutique



DUTY FREE PHILIPPINES RECENTLY launched Segue Boutique at its Fiestamall 2nd Floor Store. Segue shops address a wide target of consumers and the products aim at satisfying the needs of a clientele, mainly females between 15 and 40 years old. Segue fulfills the requests and expectations of both a youthful public looking for an essential but functional product at a contained price, and those of more demanding people who want goods with quality and image, and a good price ratio.

Brother ranks No. 1

BROTHER INT'L PHILS, ONE OF the leading manufacturers of printers, multi function and other office equipment ranked No. 1 in the third quarter of this year for the Laser Multi Function Peripheral category in the Philippines, according to the Asean IDC report. The industry data accounted that Brother Philippines increased by almost 17 percent from the previous quarter. Moreover, the company has been ranked the overall No. 1 in this category for all the Asean regions which includes Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore and Philippines market. Brother is continuously climbing atop because of its innovative products, efficient service and their wide range of solutions for the customers different needs. For more inquiries please contact: Lalaine Mesina (marketing department) Brother Int'l (Phils) Corp 11/F Chatham House, V.A. Rufino cor. Valero Sts. Makati City, tel. nos (632)845-1978 loc. 350, fax no. 845.1979, e-mail www.brother.com.ph.

MAKING a new you /C4

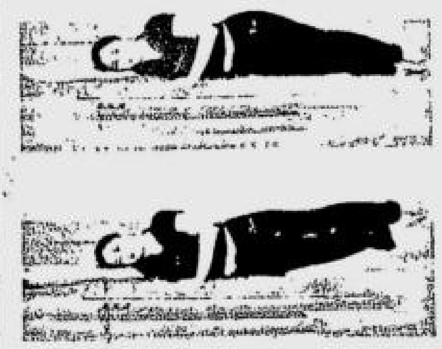
LIFESTYLE

sms feedback: inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart) or email us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Pilates side leg lift series 2



THIS PILATES-INSPIRED EXERCISE strengthens the obliques (muscles that crisscross the waist) as well as the hips and inner thigh muscles.

Equipment

Exercise mat

Exercise technique

1. Lie on your side with your legs together in line with your hips and shoulders.
2. Rest your head on your bent bottom arm and place your top hand in front of your chest on the mat with your palm flat and your fingertips facing your head.
3. Exhale as you lift both legs. Inhale as you lower them to the mat.

Performance tips

1. Always contract your abdominal muscles first before you lift your legs to protect your lower back.
2. Foot position: Point your feet as you lift the legs. Flex your feet as you bring the legs down.
3. Avoid jerking. Move slowly with control as you lift and lower legs.
4. Keep your shoulder and hip from rolling forward or backward as you lift your legs by contracting your abdominal muscles and visualizing a glass of water on your shoulder and hip.
5. Always lengthen and elongate your legs as you lift.
6. Try to bring your knees and ankles together.
7. This is an advanced exercise. Do not attempt this if you have a history of lower back problems. Ask your doctor first.

Repetitions

Do five to 10 repetitions on each side.

USA Vitamin Sale!

We deliver anywhere in the Philippines!

•GlutaBioC Skin Whitener. 1,200mg: P50.
•Silymarin: P9. •Natural Vitamin E: P6.
•Grapeseed Oil Ext. 1 ltr (1000gels equiv.): P600.
•Mangosteen. 500mg: P9. •Spirulina. 500mg: P5.
•Alpha Lipoic Acid. 100mg: P13. •DHEA: P7.
•Skin Whitening Cream: P1,200. •Melatonin: P6.
•Whey Protein. 2lbs: P1,600.+; 6lbs: P3,100.
•Glucosamine. 1,500mg: P10. •Fat Blocker: P8.
Also available: Ginkgo, Policosanol, Green Tea, Probiotics, Hyaluronic Acid, Acai, etc.

Ste 715 CityLand MegaPlaza, Ortigas Center
•Tel. 687-5023 •Cell: 0918-3461156

The truth about infomercial claims

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

IT ALL STARTED IN 1996 WITH THE Ab-Flex, that plastic spaceship lookalike that promised to give users a "flat, sexy stomach in just three minutes a day." The "amazing" claim spurred Richard Cotton, then chief exercise physiologist of the American Council on Exercise (ACE), to commission the first scientific study on a fitness product sold on television.

Exaggerated promises in infomercial convince consumers to buy the products. The Ab-Flex ad was so successful sales reached US$320 million.

Six months after the ACE study was released, the Federal Trade Commission penalized the maker of the product for making unsubstantiated claims.

Since then, the nonprofit fitness advocacy organization has lived up to its role as "workout watchdog" by sponsoring university-based studies to determine whether infomercial products really live up to their claims.

Here are more of ACE's findings from its website. To see a full report, go to www.acefitness.org. Click on "ACE Fit Facts," then click on "research studies."

Ab-Flex System

The claim: "The most effective stomach firming exercise product on the market today."

The bottom line: Effective at isometrically recruiting ab muscles, but no more effective than using a large book or block of wood in a similar way.

(1996, California State University, Long Beach)

Aerobic Riders

Cardio Glide, E-Force and Health Rider

The claim: "A critical look at three popular aerobic riders and their relative effectiveness."

The bottom line: Novice exercisers will get the most out of the aerobic riders, but consumers who are already fit are better off working out on a treadmill.

(1996, California State University, Northridge)

Abdominal Trainers

Ab Roller Plus, ABSculptor and AB-Works

The claim: "Trim 4-6 inches off your frame" and get "the World's Greatest Abs."

The bottom line: None of the ab trainers were more effective—or as inexpensive—as the good old-fashioned crunch.

(1997, California State University, Northridge)

Aerobic Gliders

Airofit and Fitness Flyer

The claim: A full-body workout that's fun and effective, adaptable to all fitness levels and enjoyable enough to do every day.

The bottom line: "May be less effective than a quick walk or slow jog for most exercise enthusiasts."

(1997, California State University, Northridge)

Elliptical trainers

Ellipse, Health Rider, Elliptical Cross Trainer, Power Train and Cyclone

The claim: "Burns five times more calories than a treadmill at 2.7 mph." Power Train: "Burns 35 percent more calories than a treadmill or stationary bicycle."

The bottom line: Although elliptical trainers provide a low-impact, effective workout, both claims are inaccurate.

(1998, University of Mississippi)

Time Works

The claim: "Total-body fitness in just four minutes a day" and "lose pounds—minute for minute, burn nearly three times the calories of a treadmill, rider or strider!"

The bottom line: The Time Works' claims are false and misleading.

(1999, Appalachian State University)

Tanita Body Fat Scale

The claim: A quick and easy way to measure body-fat percentage at home.

The bottom line: It's difficult to achieve an accurate reading every time and it's nearly impossible for the very lean or obese to get accurate readings.

(1999, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine)

Electrical Muscle Stimulation (EMS)

Ab Energizer, AbTronic, Fast Abs

The claim: Get "rock-solid abs" and firmer thighs and buttocks—all without breaking a sweat.

The bottom line: Home-based EMS units are ineffective, time-consuming and—at times—even painful.

(2000, University of Wisconsin, La Crosse)

AB-DOer

The claim: "Lose at least two inches from your waist in just 10 days or your money back."

The bottom line: AB-DOer provides a low-intensity workout and does not live up to its claims.

(2001, California State University, Northridge)

Note: The Basic Fitness Instructor Course of the Association of Fitness Professionals of the Philippines begins Jan. 14. Call Joy at 9202762 or 0917-5181202.

Visit www.tinajuanfitness.info

Stars go for healthy living in 2006

CELEBRITIES VOW TO ADOPT A healthy lifestyle in 2006 and kick their bad habits.

The monthly Mirror magazine, in its first issue for the year, reports on how celebrities plan to stay fit and healthy this year.

Lucy Torres, for one, will follow a healthy low-fat, low-calorie diet despite the goodies she has to prepare when she entertains at home.

Alessandra de Rossi, Angel Locsin and Iza Calzado have also resolved to pursue healthy lifestyles the whole year round.

Meanwhile, the magazine reports on a treatment for asthma in Ukraine. Asthma is a common illness among Filipino families and attacks are often treated with a nebulizer.

In Solotvino, Ukraine, a treatment has proven effective in healing lung ailments but it can be found 300 meters below ground.

The Ukrainian allergological hospital (an institution specializing in allergies) practices speleotherapy, the use of the microclimates of underground places like mines or caves, to treat lung ailment.

Mirror explores this treatment, citing the experiences of some who have tried the therapy and attest to its effectiveness.

In this issue, learn more about troubled supermodel Kate Moss who is back at work after checking out of a drug rehabilitation program in October. Mirror tells how she rose to fame, became an icon and almost lost her job after being photographed allegedly sniffing cocaine.

On the cover of the December-January issue is one of the country's most talented young actresses, Nancy Castiglione. The Filipino-Canadian tells of her journey of self-discovery and how much she enjoys her stay in the Philippines.

Mirror is published by the Philippine Graphic Publications Inc., which also publishes the Philippine Graphic Newsweekly Magazine and Cook, the Culinary Lifestyle Magazine.

Healthful toast to good life

NON-ALCOHOLIC beverages like these apple cider and organic red "wine" will help make 2006 a healthier year.

HEALTHY OPTIONS, THE natural products store, marks its 10th anniversary by offering premium organic wines from boutique wineries in France, Italy, Spain, Chile, Argentina, and South Africa.

The wines are suitable for any get-togethers and celebrations throughout the year.

Toasts can be offered with two of Healthy Options' non-alcoholic beverages. The Knudsen Sparkling Organic Apple Cider has the clean taste of ripe apples. The Amé Radiant Red Non-Alcoholic Wine has the goodness and flavor of a bright red without the alcohol. The sparkling fruit drink has a unique blend of exotic eastern herbal extracts such as Schisandra, Jasmine, Gentian and Limeflower.

Healthy Options is offering special single-bottle or twin pack gift boxes for its organic wines. Twin pack boxes are available for any two choices from Organic Vintners Bianco, Organic Vintners Chardonnay, Organic Vintners Rosso and Organic Vintners Rouge.

Healthy Options stores are at Level I of Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong City; Rustan's Supermarket, Makati City; level 2 of Festival Supermall, Filinvest, Alabang; ground level of Ayala Center, Cebu City; lower ground floor of SM City, North Edsa; level 2 of SM City, Manila; Greenbelt, Ayala Center, Makati City; at level 2 of SM Megamall B, Edsa, Mandaluyong City, and SM Pampanga.

Visit www.healthyoptions.com.ph

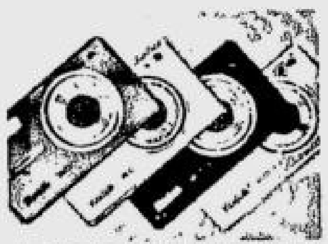
VERY HOT DEAL

Kodak EasyShare V530
Schneider-KREUZNACH
C-VARIOGON
Kodak

V530
now only P20,995

AN AMAZINGLY STYLISH CAMERA AT SURPRISINGLY GREAT VALUE.

The sleek and stunning 5 megapixel Kodak EasyShare V series digital camera is breathtakingly spectacular - inside and out. Powered by the exclusive Kodak Color Science chip and equipped with the Schneider-Krueznach C-Variogon lens with 3x optical and 4x digital zoom, true-to-life colors are captured in pictures and high-quality MPEG4 video. And best of all, you get the best of Kodak design and digital technology at great value. Now beauty comes at a more affordable price.



Available in red, silver, black and pink.

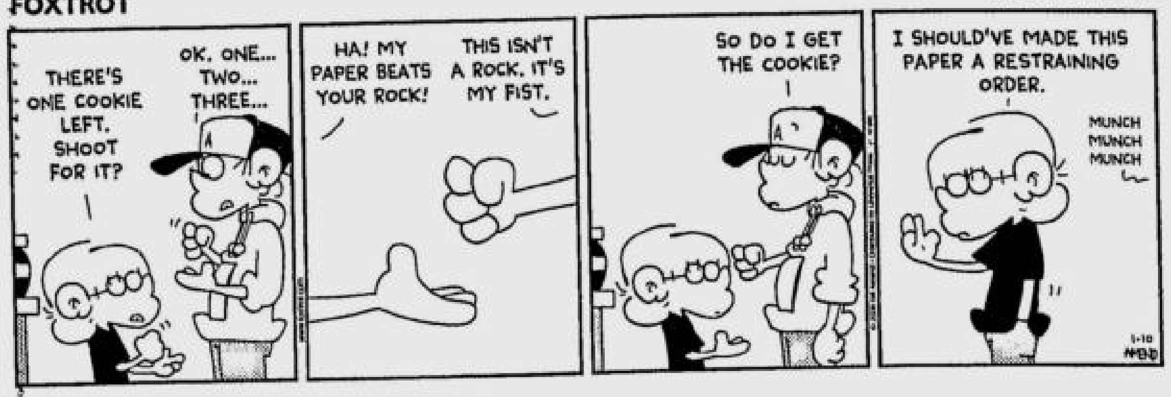
Kodak EasyShare digital camera

FREE 128 MB Kodak SD Card and Camera Case

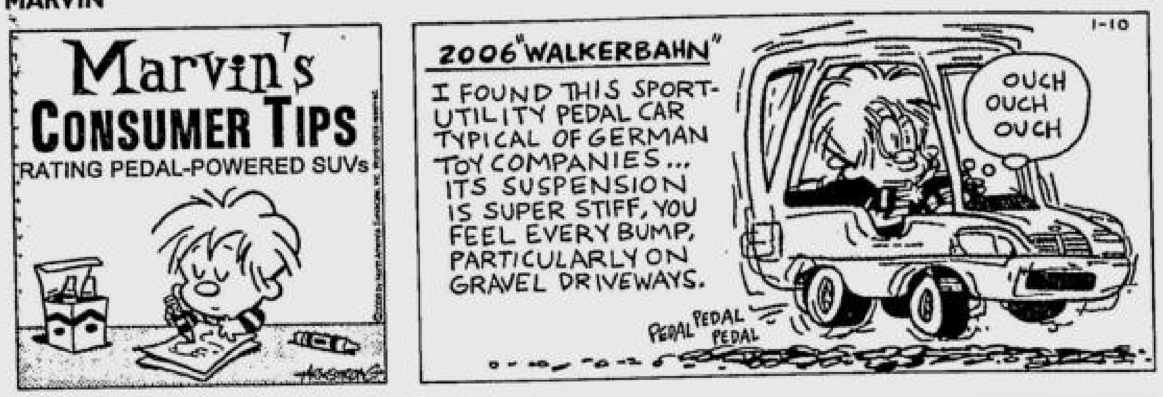
Inquire about 0% interest on 6 months payment scheme in participating stores.

Available at the following outlets and other participating stores: Kodak Express SM Department Stores • Kameraworld • Island Photo • Colours-Cebu • Camerahaus • Complink and E-hub • Villman • 5th Avenue • Compex • Ambassador Appliances • Avant • Silicon Valley • Octagon • Automatic Center

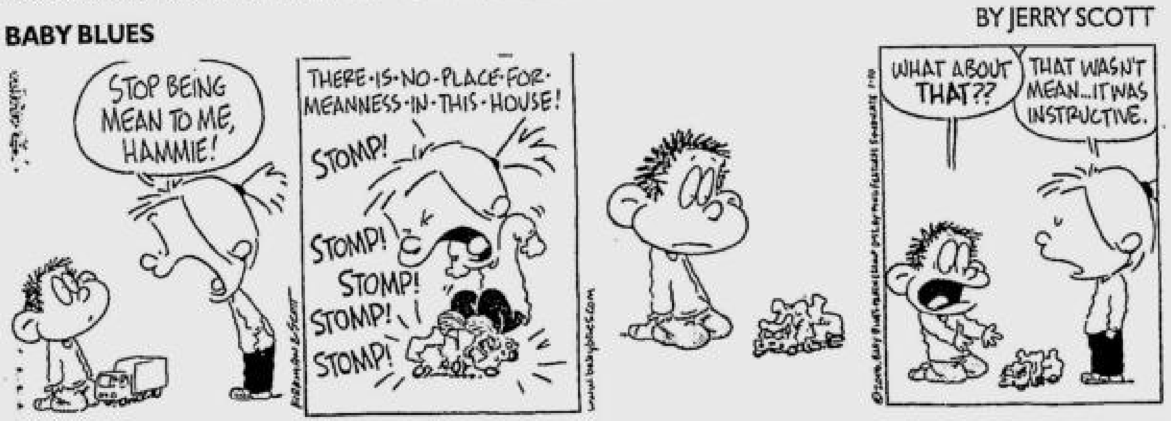
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


THERE'S ONE COOKIE LEFT. SHOOT FOR IT?
OK. ONE... TWO... THREE...
HA! MY PAPER BEATS YOUR ROCK!
THIS ISN'T A ROCK. IT'S MY FIST.
So DO I GET THE COOKIE?
I SHOULD'VE MADE THIS PAPER A RESTRAINING ORDER.
MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH
1-10

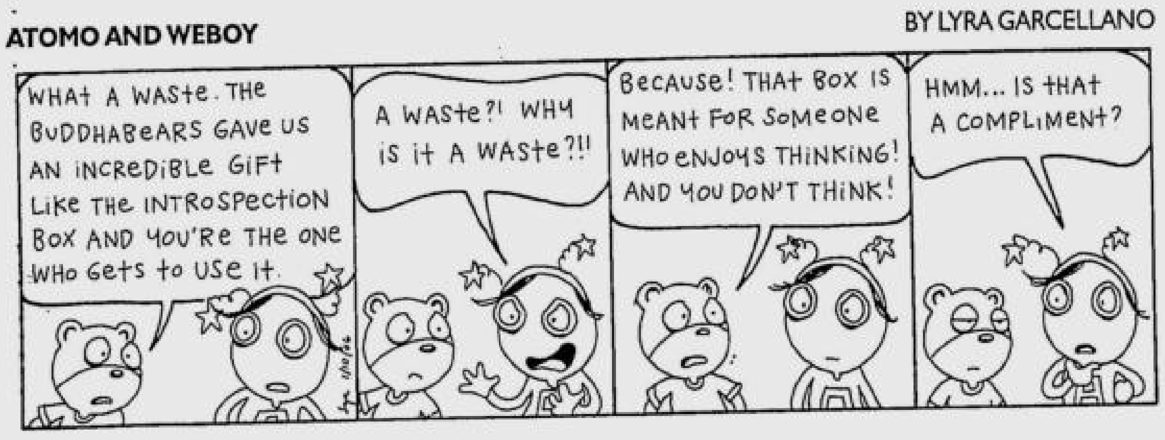
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


Marvin's CONSUMER TIPS
RATING PEDAL-POWERED SUVs
1-10
2006 "WALKERBAHN"
I FOUND THIS SPORT-UTILITY PEDAL CAR TYPICAL OF GERMAN TOY COMPANIES... ITS SUSPENSION IS SUPER STIFF, YOU FEEL EVERY BUMP, PARTICULARLY ON GRAVEL DRIVEWAYS.
OUCH OUCH OUCH
PEDAL PEDAL PEDAL

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


STOP BEING MEAN TO ME, HAMMIE!
THERE-IS-NO-PLACE-FOR-MEANNESS-IN-THIS-HOUSE!
STOMP! STOMP! STOMP! STOMP! STOMP!
WHAT ABOUT THAT??
THAT WASN'T MEAN...IT WAS INSTRUCTIVE.

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WHAT A WASTE. THE BUDDHABEARS GAVE US AN INCREDIBLE GIFT LIKE THE INTROSPECTION BOX AND YOU'RE THE ONE WHO GETS TO USE IT.
A WASTE?! WHY IS IT A WASTE?!!
BECAUSE! THAT BOX IS MEANT FOR SOMEONE WHO ENJOYS THINKING! AND YOU DON'T THINK!
HMM... IS THAT A COMPLIMENT?

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You always take a realistic look at things. This is one of your great strengths. You're excellent at sizing up any situation. You're also outspoken; you say what you mean and you mean what you say. People respect you for this. You have integrity. The year ahead might be one of the most powerful, fortunate years of your life!
Birthdate of: Rod Stewart, singer; Sal Mineo, actor; George Foreman, boxer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a slightly accident-prone day; therefore, be careful. It's also a verbally accident-prone day; therefore, think before you speak. You can be helpful to children now.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Something having to do with money and groups of friends is a bit unpredictable today. Think twice before you make a financial commitment or lend money to anyone. Ditto for your own possessions.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): The Moon is in your sign today; however, you feel restless. Anything can happen! Conversations with parents, bosses and VIPs make you feel independent, perhaps even rebellious!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Dealings with the government and large institutions are solid today. Expect interruptions to plans and matters related to publishing and the media. Educational schedules will also change.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You might meet a real character today. Alternatively, someone you know might surprise you. Be careful about lending money and possessions or borrowing anything. Something unpredictable will happen!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You don't want anybody bossing you around today. You feel independent and a tad touchy. Don't bite back, however. That only makes things worse. (Who wants worse?)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Computer crashes and power outages or interruptions to your daily work schedule are likely today. Just cope with a smile. Be patient. Demonstrate grace under pressure.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Parents must keep an eye on children today, because it is a mildly accident-prone day. Romance is full of surprises. Unexpected flirtations are unnerving but quietly thrilling.

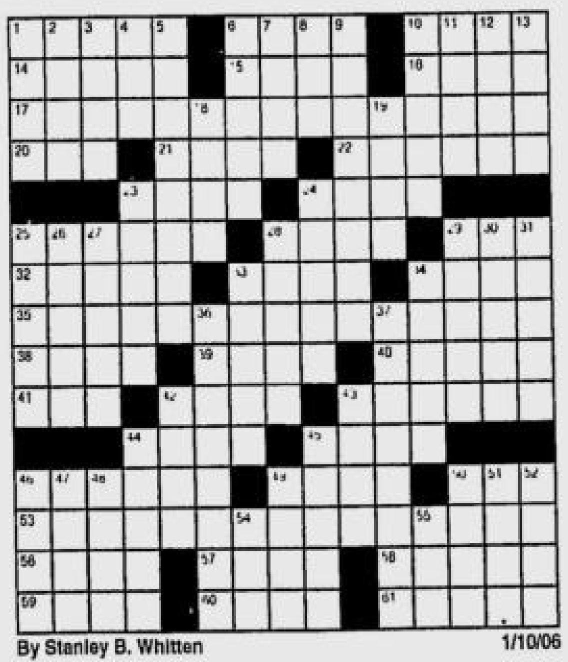
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Be patient when talking to partners and close friends today. Arguments can easily erupt. People are a bit huffy and sensitive today. Try to respect this.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Your work schedule will definitely change today. Perhaps new technology will be introduced. Perhaps new technology will break down! (Oh my, what a surprise.)

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Parents must be careful with children today. Keep an eye on them. Unusual, creative ideas will occur. Surprise flirtations might please you. (It's just another form of admiration.)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Go slowly at home today, because, in haste, you might break something. Be patient with family members, because people are a bit jumpy and edgy today. Surprise company could drop by. Stock the fridge so that you have something to offer.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Stanley B. Whitten
Highwood, IL
1/10/06

ACROSS

1 Capital of Oregon
6 Viking redhead
10 Three-piece piece
14 Maytag rival
15 Italian actress Eleonora
16 Butter substitute
17 So long song
20 Double bend
21 One who performs
22 L.A. hoopsters
23 Sea eagles
24 Gilbert or Teasdale
25 Theatrical works
28 Bend
29 __ Plaines, IL
32 Toy-cube inventor
33 Office folder
34 Bartok or Lugosi
35 So long novel
38 Places
39 500-mile race
40 Titles
41 Linguistic suffix
42 Bettor's figures
43 Indistinct
44 Hawaiian guitars
45 Oafish character
46 Codger
49 Beat it!
50 Skater Babilonia
53 So long song
56 A single time
57 Lion's greeting
58 Strange
59 Hydroxyl compound
60 Weeps
61 Marsh growths

DOWN

1 Wise man
2 Songstress Tori
3 Cambodia neighbor
4 Terminate
5 May apple
6 Periphery
7 Rhine tributary
8 Adherent's suffix
9 Wine cabinet
10 Distilled mash
11 Writer Wiesel
12 Prophet
13 Throw
18 Charged particles
19 Org. for seniors
23 Bahrain rulers
24 Charlie Brown's sister
25 Hang loosely
26 __ T. Firefly (Groucho Marx character)
27 Ease off
28 Uninhabited region
29 Stuffed __ (kishke)
30 Gantry or Rice
31 Smart-alecky
33 Wards (off)
34 Called sheepishly
36 Expanders
37 Gaper
42 Approve
43 United voting group
44 Flower cluster
45 Scorches
46 Orchestra member
47 Actress Redgrave
48 Art __
49 Pitching rubber
50 Wear out
51 Dry
52 Middle of Roman months
54 Frightening word
55 Pollen gatherer

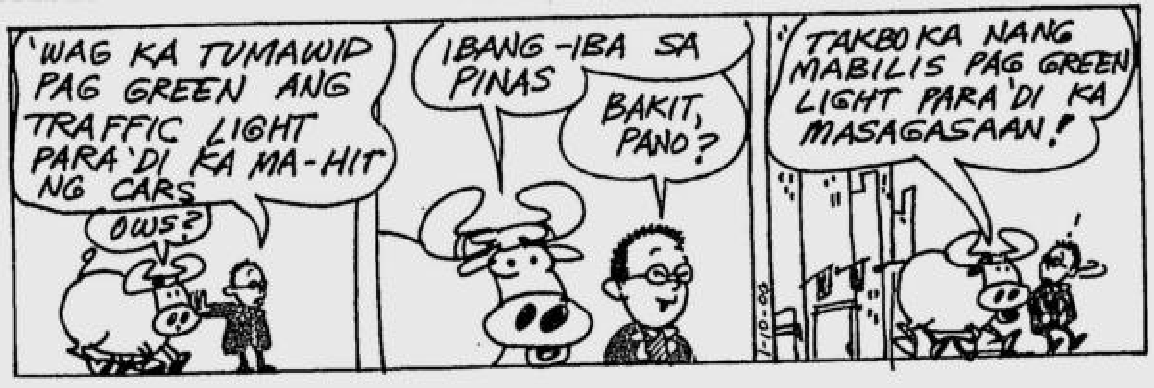
Monday's Puzzle Solved

S	T	A	B		B	O	A	T		A	T	L	A	S
D	O	S	E		A	U	D	I		P	R	O	N	E
I	N	T	L		S	T	A	R		P	E	N	T	A
	S	I	L	V	E	R	M	E	D	A	L	I	S	T
			Y	A	L	U			I	L	L			
A	F	O	U	L		N	E	O	N	L	I	G	H	T
B	U	R	P	E	D		T	O	E		S	H	O	E
A	R	T		T	I	N	H	O	R	N		A	L	E
C	O	H	O		S	O	O		S	I	G	N	E	T
I	R	O	N	H	O	R	S	E		T	R	A	S	H
			S	A	W			M	E	R	E			
P	L	A	T	I	N	U	M	B	L	O	N	D	E	
R	E	N	A	L		L	E	O	I		D	E	E	P
O	S	A	G	E		E	A	S	T		E	L	L	E
F	E	T	E	D		E	L	S	E		L	I	S	A

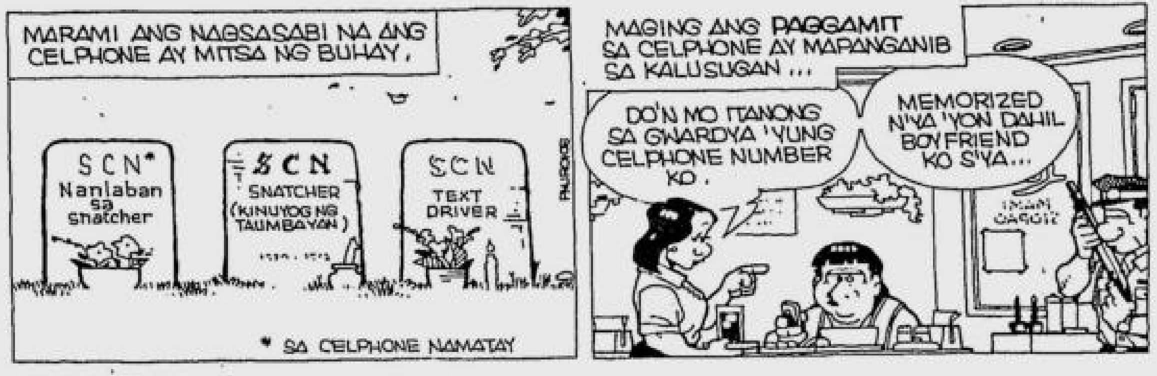
1/10/06

(C)2006 Tribune Media Services, Inc
All rights reserved.

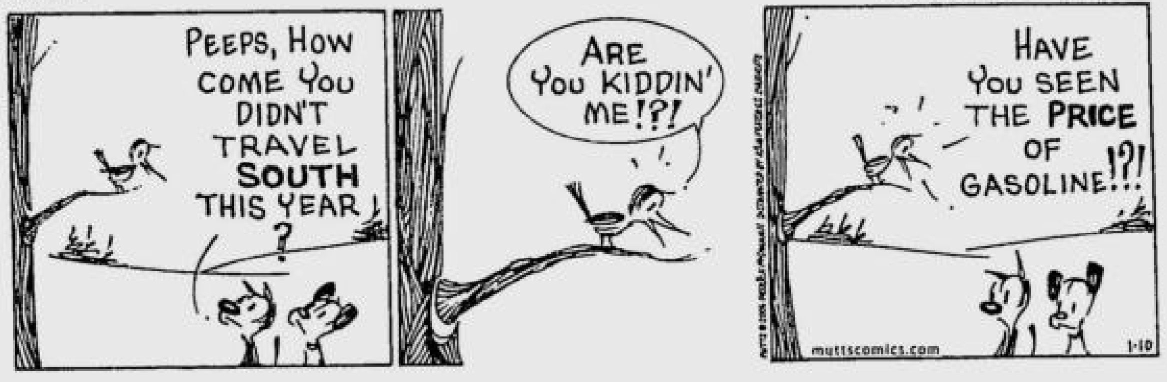
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


'WAG KA TUMAWID PAG GREEN ANG TRAFFIC LIGHT PARA 'DI KA MA-HIT NG CARS
OWS?
IBANG-IBA SA PINAS
BAKIT, PANO?
TAKBO KA NANG MABILIS PAG GREEN LIGHT PARA 'DI KA MASAGASAAN!
1-10-06

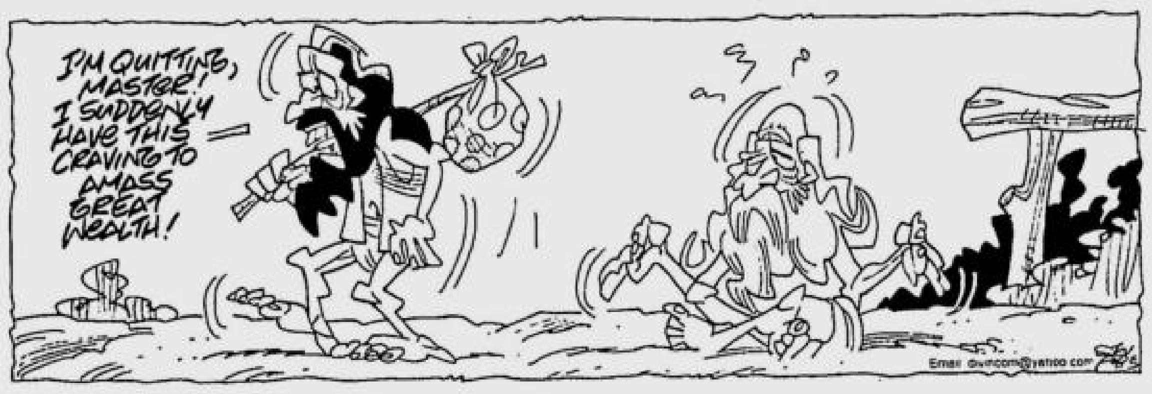
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


MARAMI ANG NAGSASABI NA ANG CELPHONE AY MITSA NG BUHAY.
SCN* Nanlaban sa snatcher
SCN SNATCHER (KINUYOG NG TAUMBAYAN)
SCN TEXT DRIVER
* SA CELPHONE NAMATAY
MAGING ANG PAGGAMIT SA CELPHONE AY MAPANGANIB SA KALUSUGAN...
DO'N MO ITANONG SA GWARDYA 'YUNG CELPHONE NUMBER KO.
MEMORIZED NIYA 'YON DAHIL BOYFRIEND KO S'YA...

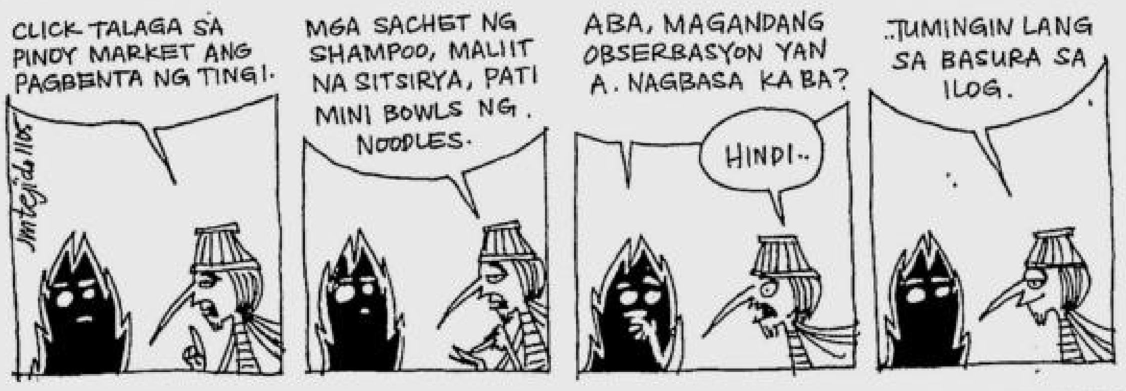
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


PEEPS, HOW COME YOU DIDN'T TRAVEL SOUTH THIS YEAR ?
ARE YOU KIDDIN' ME!?!
HAVE YOU SEEN THE PRICE OF GASOLINE!?!
muttscomics.com
1-10

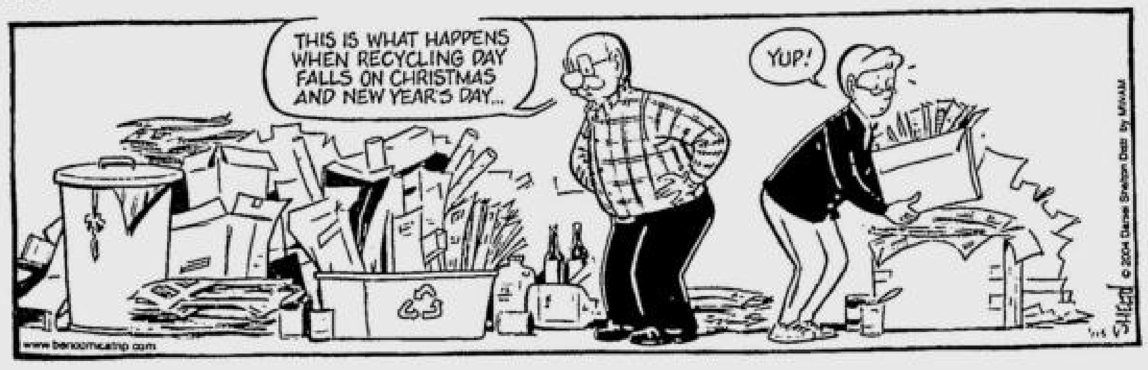
DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


I'M QUITTING, MASTER! I SUDDENLY HAVE THIS CRAVING TO AMASS GREAT WEALTH!
Email: divincom@yahoo.com

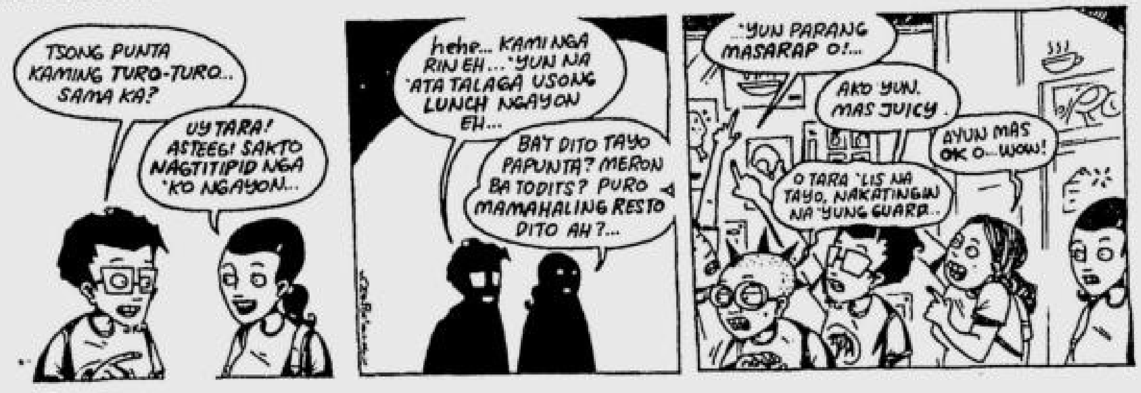
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


CLICK TALAGA SA PINOY MARKET ANG PAGBENTA NG TINGI.
MGA SACHET NG SHAMPOO, MALIIT NA SITSIRYA, PATI MINI BOWLS NG NOODLES.
ABA, MAGANDANG OBSERBASYON YAN A. NAGBASA KA BA?
HINDI..
TUMINGIN LANG SA BASURA SA ILOG.

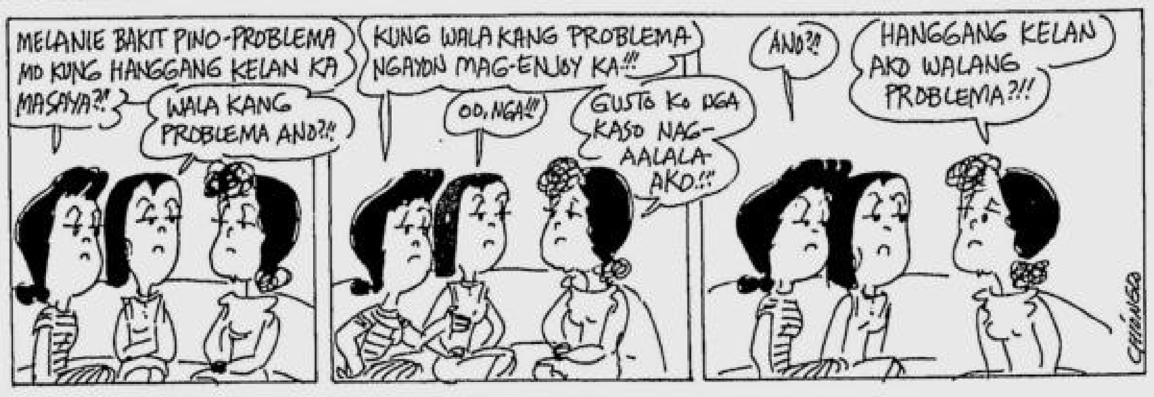
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN RECYCLING DAY FALLS ON CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S DAY...
YUP!

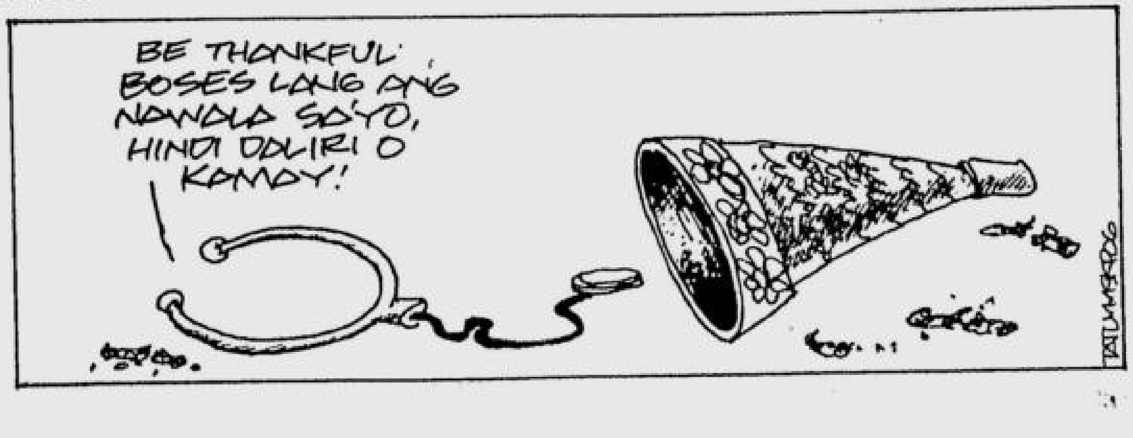
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


TSONG PUNTA KAMING TURO-TURO.. SAMA KA?
UY TARA! ASTEEG! SAKTO NAGTITIPID NGA 'KO NGAYON..
hehe... KAMI NGA RIN EH... 'YUN NA 'ATA TALAGA USONG LUNCH NGAYON EH...
BA'T DITO TAYO PAPUNTA? MERON BA TODITS? PURO MAMAHALING RESTO DITO AH?...
..'YUN PARANG MASARAP O!...
AKO YUN. MAS JUICY.
AYUN MAS OK O... WOW!
O TARA 'LIS NA TAYO, NAKATINGIN NA 'YUNG GUARD..

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MELANIE BAKIT PINO-PROBLEMA MO KUNG HANGGANG KELAN KA MASAYA?!
WALA KANG PROBLEMA ANO?!!
KUNG WALA KANG PROBLEMA NGAYON MAG-ENJOY KA!!!
OO, NGA!!!
GUSTO KO NGA KASO NAG-AALALA AKO!!
ANO?!!
HANGGANG KELAN AKO WALANG PROBLEMA?!!

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


BE THANKFUL BOSES LANG ANG NAWALA SA'YO, HINDI DALIRI O KAMAY!

FORT Ilocandia Hotel's PR director, Arlene de Guzman

PILAR Franco

ANNA Ventura Remigio

DINKY Co

BUTCH Bonsol of What's On and Expat

MMPI president and CEO Sari Yap

GSIS' Eric Zerrudo and Irene Marcos Araneta

We could have danced all night

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

AT 6 A.M., WE WERE ON OUR way to the north, after collecting my favorite pepperoni, **Pepper Teehankee**, in his flat. We drove eight awesome hours to Laoag in the van that business magnate **Ernie Villavicencio** so graciously lent us. Our hostess, **Liza A.M.**, provided pillows, comforters, sandwiches and drinks for the trip.

We stopped for an afternoon snack at the gorgeous old-new house of Vigan's good-looking popular businessman and art collector, **Bonito Singson**, who made sure we tried Vigan's popular, yummy *empanada* and *ukoy* that Pepper and *moi* attacked like piranhas.

In Laoag; our hostess, Liza A.M., met us and made sure we were real comfy in our breezy rooms, with the pool and the beach in front.

By 7 p.m., it was time for the Governor's Ball, dahlings, at the grand Sierra Madre Ballroom of the Fort Ilocandia Resort, *palanggas*.

Hotshot invitees including Cosmo Manille's chic diplomatic corps, *tres* prominent *familles* of Ilocos, and close pals walked on the red carpet for the yearly Gameng Museo Ilocos Norte Benefit Dinner, lavishly garbed in Abel Iloco.

We made our way through the Spanish-Moroccan-inspired hall with dazzling chandeliers and filled with eye-catching flowers, dahlings.

Having a fab time were Madame **Imelda Romualdez Marcos**; *el simpatico* Spanish Ambassador **Ignacio Sagaz** and his wife; everyone's *palangga*, southern beauty **Aurora Lapus**; former Belgian Ambassador **Christian Tanghe** and wife **Gul**; new Italian Ambassador **Rubens Fidele**; Ilocos Norte's popular vice governor, **Windell Chua**; Ilocos Norte provincial board member **Michael Marcos Keon**; Paoay Mayor **Bobby Clemente**; young Batangas provincial board member, cool, good-looking **Mark Leviste**; **Mike Luis** and wife **Mary Ann**; fun couple **Golden Ocampo** and wife **Bernice Romualdez**; **Pilar Franco** and **Esther Bonoan**; the **Chua** clan of Batac; the man, **Bonito Singson** of Plaza Maestro Commercial Complex; popular eligible bachelor **Alfredo Roca** of Punta Fuego, with **German Garcia**; mega architect and interior designer **Anton Mendoza**; model and VJ **Mark San Diego**; Pepper Teehankee; *moi*; Government Service Insurance System vice president **Eric Zerrudo**; famed historian and author **Ricky Jose**.

We were served refreshing *duhat* wine and the renowned Ilocano "cornick," as friends of the museum welcomed us. Tables were beautifully adorned with a centerpiece of bamboo on mountain rice, with an *atang* on top. Guests were delighted by native gift bags with a copy of Lifestyle Asia magazine.

Dedicated lady of culture, cyber smart Museo Ilocos Norte head **Araceli Drake**, opened this once-a-year must-go-to affair. Before you could bat an eyelash, Ilocos Norte's *tres* popular governor, **Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr.**, was welcoming the guests with a short, super eloquent speech, underscoring the essence of the evening's celebration.

"As you wine, dine and enjoy the food and the drinks this evening," said the governor, "think that you are not only having a rather fancy dinner, but also that you are helping us celebrate the traditions, the culture and the history of Ilocos Norte."

Dinner was a gastronomic delight starting with the famous, sweetish Pasuquin bread; *biscocho* served with Superior Soup with Shrimp Dumpling; and *bokchoy*, followed by Lumpia with Jimaca and Carrots. The Tangigue Cheviche salad was a visual treat and a preparation for the sumptuous main course, Roast Pork with Garlic Rosemary and San Nicolas Molasses. Desserts were Buko Pandan with Coconut Cream, and Mango Compote with Chocolate Sauce. *Salabat* and *tanglad* tea, and Adam's Arabica Blend were served, *palanggas*. Everything was painstakingly tasted a week before the ball by civic-oriented lady of style, **Irene Marcos Araneta**.

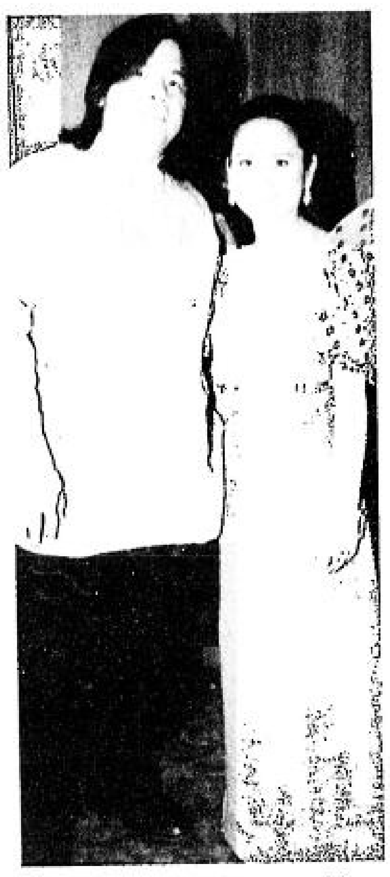
Ilocos Norte's beautiful first couple, Gov. Bongbong Marcos, and wife, brilliant lawyer and mega organizer of events, Liza A.M., opened the dance. They were later joined by **Imelda Marcos**, in an exquisite green terno, and other hotshots and ambassadors.

The benefit dinner was organized by the Gameng Foundation Inc. in cooperation with hotshots from Lifestyle Asia and Asian Living. They did a great job of organizing this smashingly successful event. Special thanks to Fort Ilocandia Resort, Currimao Green Nipa Resort Corp., Pagcor, Plaza Maestro, Flying V Gas Station, Gov. and Ms Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. (natch!), **Mariano V. Marcos II**, Irene Marcos Araneta, friends of the museum and Madame Imelda M, but who else, dahlings?

OPENING the dance were Ilocos Norte's first couple, Gov. Bongbong and Liza (nee Araneta) Marcos.

VIGAN'S hotshot, popular Bonito Singson, with Michael Keon

NEDY Tantoco, Gul Tanghe, Madame Imelda Romualdez Marcos and Aurora Lapuz Sagaz


MICHAEL Luis and eye-catching Mary Ann Yasay-Luis

ROWENA and Albert Chua

Potters

Mega talented potters **Pete Cortes** and **Pablo Capati** gave us art lovers and collectors a new look at an ancient art during their fantastic joint exhibit, "A Potters's View," at the one-of-a-kind upscale furniture and interiors boutique, Borders, famed for its *tres* exclusive lifestyle collection, *palanggas*.

Apres cocktails, a slide show gave an overview of the pottery process which, in this day of high-tech mass production, is increasingly becoming an "arcane art and craft."

Pete C., a graduate of interior design of the University of Santo Tomas and the Philippine School of Interior Design, was a successful furniture designer in the United States, Indonesia and the Philippines when he took up pottery-making five years ago at the Pettyjohn-Mendoza Pottery School, where he now teaches.

Pete says, "Clay is the medium which the artist in me has been looking for. I have found my journey."

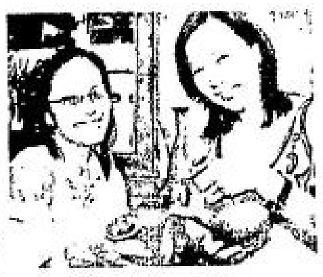
Pablo Capati studied pottery in Japan for three of the 10 years he lived there with his father. He went to the University of Southern California, LA, then back to Japan before returning to the Philippines.

With the help of **Jon** and **Tessy Pettyjohn**, he built the kiln of his dreams and, by 2004, was firing "properly" his creations.

With the enthusiastic reception the potters got from invitees and clients, art lover **Alice Cruz**, Borders' owner and manager, plans to feature other artists/potters in the coming months, dahlings.

Borders, at 2291 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati (tel. 8932905, 8932908), is open 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Monday-Saturday, *palanggas*.

PEOPLE with taste: Ging Pajaro, Kim Mendoza, Addie Mendoza and Ritsuko Kikushi


CORINNA Kalaw and Marie Schnabel with their purchases

POTTERS Pablo Capati and Pete Cortes, with Border's sales manager Liane Bautista and owner Alice Cruz

MEDICard, The Healthcare I Deserve!

Take Charge Doc!

What is Virgin Coconut Oil?

A lot has been written and discussed about virgin coconut oil recently and its many health benefits. Virgin Coconut Oil or VCO is defined as oil obtained from the fresh, mature kernel of the coconut by mechanical or natural means, with or without the use of heat, without undergoing chemical refining bleaching or deodorizing; it does not lead to the alteration of the nature of the oil. Several processes have been developed and used locally to extract the oil and there is no marker to distinguish one process from the other. All have the same fatty acid composition. As stated by one health official, "regular coconut oil is healthy but virgin coconut oil is even healthier". As to the composition of the oil, it is predominantly made up of medium chain saturated fatty acids (lauric acid, capric acid & caprylic acid) and only very low percentage (2%) of polysaturated fatty acids. Because of this, coconut oil is stable and resistant to oxidation and therefore does not release free radicals which are harmful. And because it is naturally 92% saturated it does not need hydrogenation and so does not have trans fatty acids which causes high total cholesterol, LDL and low HDL.

There are several types of VCO being sold in the market:

1) Cold processed oil - which is claimed to be "extra virgin" and is extracted from fresh coconut within 24 hours.

2) Heat processed oil – the traditional process which heats the coconut milk to separate water and oil.

Other types include those extracted from desiccated coconut and even the use of enzymes. However, these are not as high quality as the first two. And of course, there are those that are outright fakes such as bleached and deodorized cooking oil or small amount of coconut oil mixed with mineral oil. These should be avoided.

Nicky

MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya answers questions on health through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. Write to Dr. Nicky or E-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com for your inquiries on health matters.

MEDICard PHILIPPINES, INC. [illegible]
Trunkline: 867 2020 Fax No.: [illegible] Text: [illegible]
E-mail: [illegible] Website: [illegible]

Four-team badminton tourney ends

THE GREEN TEAM WAS DEclared champion in the first Berocca Inter-color Badminton Tournament at the Manila Polo Club.

Four teams competed in the tournament.

Berocca Performance kept the competitors in top shape with its combination of B and C vitamins plus other essential minerals, specially formulated for optimal performance at work and at play. A tablet of Berocca in a glass of cold water helps keep people mentally and physically fit and optimizes energy and mental process throughout the day.

Green team consisted of Vincent Lim, vice president for finance, Solid Group Inc.; Amanda Carpo; Lawrence Lesaca; Henry and Nicole Morris; Benson Siao; Mariel Tiangco; Linda Yap, wife of Wilson Yapkianwee, president of Crown Jewel; Marvin Lim; Anil Sehwani, vice president of Sehwani Hotel; Leica Carpo; Ravi Sehwani, vice president of ITSP International, Inc.; Marco Bermejo; Alex Carpo; Thomas Owen; Jess Rerez; Hernan Lim, president of HOC PO Feeds Corporation; and John Campos, owner of La Paz Realty.

Second-placer Yellow Team was composed of Raymond Rodrigo; Jan Campos; Mark Puyat, chief financial officer, KKC Inc.; David Lim, president, Destiny Inc.; Alex Tiu, manager, Amorsolo Mansion; Rina Samson, treasurer, Samson's Enterprises; Monica Yupangco; businessman Ted Jimenez of Daalco Inc./Vicaros Realty; Juanmi Laurel, president, Mini Ventures; Jocelyn Nicdao, wife of Ruperto Nicdao, president, Manila Broadcasting Company; Gina Campos, wife of Jan Antonio Campos, vice president, Cenel Development Corp; Matthew Lim; Miguel David; Marga Camara; Isabelle Nicdao; Frank Cruz, director, Southern Cross Distribution, Inc.; Sarah Cheng; and Martin Araneta.

Black Team placed third. It consisted of Martin Fernandez, vice president, Alcatel Philippines; Joseph Tan; Gil Coscolluela, head designer of W.V Coscolluela & Associates Architects; Gene Lamb; James Roman; Inday Mallari; Carol Francisco, proprietress Poblete Realty & Development Corp.; Cheska Bermejo; Jet Suarez; Alvin and Becky Co; Prem Jiandani, son of Gobindram Jiandani, owner/manager, GSSP Corp.; Patrick Jalasco, grandson of former President Fidel V. Ramos; Sam Singer; Eliza Constantino, investment banking officer of Far East Bank Investment, Inc.; Lal Gopwani, general manger of Branded Life Style Inc.; William Tan Untiong; and Naresh Ramnani, chief operating officer, New Trends International (Timex Philippines).

RICKY Davao, Berocca's Debbie Go, Daisy Gutierrez, Glydel Mercado and Tonton Gutierrez

Composing the White Team were Dondi Santos; Judy Lim, wife of Solid Group's Vincent Lim; Paolo Puyat, general manager, Tambunting Pawnshop; Michael Lim, son of Solid Group's Vincent; architect Alfred Weineke of A.V Wieneke II & Associates; Luz Siguion-Reyna, wife of lawyer Leonardo Siguion-Reyna, senior managing partner, Siguion-Reyna Montecillo Ongsiako Law Office; Reena Aguilar; Ian Ocampo, son of Adrian Ocampo, president and chief executive officer, Philippine Educational Trust and Pension; Michael Aguilar, husband of Catherine Aguilar, owner, Fanbi Fabrics; Debbie Yabut, wife of Peter Yabut, president, Credit Solutions Inc.; Weng Chang; William Chua; Joaquin Camus; Julienne Nicdao; Ale Muñoz of Commodities Trading Co., Inc.; Julia Lim, wife of Destiny's president; Cristina Ramos; and Wally Fernandez.

Berocca is available at drug stores nationwide.

A new you

(Part 2)

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

"I will see it when I believe it."
—Wayne Dyer

TIME AND AGAIN, PSYCHOtherapists and life coaches have said it: Quit the negative programming and replace it with the positive. Easier said than done.

So, how does one begin? Countless seminars have been developed to overcome obstacles largely created by the mind with the objective of mastering the self.

Mind coach Cornelius Pols, in a one-hour session at the serene amphitheater of the Farm Medical Spa in San Benito, said human beings are naturally self-reflective, therefore, we are always thinking whether something will be self-uplifting or self-defeating.

Self-destruct

A built-in mechanism inside of us all automatically goes on self-destruct each time we go through an unpleasant experience. Traumas, hurts, pains, failures are played constantly, reminding us to fear an actual reenactment of the experience. The past, if not seen in its proper perspective, will eventually color present and future experiences.

Visualization techniques

There are several effective and fun ways to by-pass this self-destruct tendency. Try them and see how they can easily change your experience by giving you a new perspective and new feeling.

Donald Duck

Retrieve from your mind a sad or disturbing experience.

1. Now imagine that the person who caused you pain has changed his/her voice to Donald Duck's while still saying the same hurtful things once said to you.
2. Hold on to this visualization and store it in your mind as the new memory.

In the movies

1. Take a negative experience. Play it out in your mind. See the drama that once caused you pain—and still does each time you recall it.
2. Now, set it to the musical scoring of your favorite movie—Star Wars, Superman, etc.
3. Raise the volume of the music until it drowns the hurtful conversations.
4. From now on, your bad memory will be set to music. And all you will remember is the dramatic melody drowning out all sorrows.

Shattered glass

1. Retrieve the painful memory. Turn it into a picture.
2. Transfer it onto glass or a mirror.
3. See it before you.
4. Now allow it to break up into tiny pieces until it is no longer there.
5. Keep replacing the old hurts one after the other as fast as you can.
6. Exhaust every trauma and obliterate it like small shattered splinters of glass.

Master painting

1. Choose a memory you want to erase from your mind.
2. Imagine all the details of this experience.
3. Transfer it onto a canvass as though capturing it within a picture frame.
4. Have the hurt converted into a master painting by Michelangelo, Picasso, Amorsolo, etc. Soften the colors of your experience or express them loudly in bold shapes for you are the master painter.
5. Know that the pain is now outside yourself and can no longer hurt you.

New you

1. Picture yourself as you would like to be, say a year or two from today.
2. Project onto your right side a few feet in front of you (if you are right-handed) on the left side (if you are left-handed).
3. If the image of your new self is acceptable to you, your instincts will confirm this. Like an audition, present before yourself several new versions of you.
4. Take your time. You can have several versions. Perhaps you would like to look slimmer and younger, happier, more successful, etc. The choices are yours.
5. Once you find the right new version of you, accept it as who you will become.
6. Each night before going to bed, recall the new image and affirm to yourself: "Yes, this is who I will be."

Breathing in the new

1. Make it a daily habit to do slow deep-breathing exercise preferably first thing in the morning.
2. Stand up, raise your arms toward the sky as you inhale.
3. Hold your breath.
4. Exhale slowly.

Beauty brush-up

1. Get a small towel, rub it against your skin for 5-7 minutes.
2. Use upward strokes from feet to neck.
3. This will get your lymph moving to help circulation and detoxify your body.

Postscript

Newness begins in the mind, though it is fueled by the heart. Life offers so many possibilities to create and re-create. If you want to change your life as wise men say, begin by changing yourself.

Love and light!

Reference: Cornelius Pols, mind coach (call 0917-4205257; e-mail junpols@yahoo.com)

E-mail the author at coryquirino_fy@yahoo.com

What readers ask

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

I WOULD LIKE TO DEVOTE THIS COLUMN to answering questions sent via e-mail and text by readers.

The following questions are from Delia Roxas:

1. "Is it true one can hardly sleep when someone is thinking of him/her? Is this some kind of mental telepathy? Do you have a simple procedure to follow to enhance one's telepathic powers?"

Yes, that is a case of telepathic communication. Whether or not you are able to sleep depends on what the other person is thinking. In fact, you may even sleep and dream of the person thinking of you.

There is a technique to enhance telepathic communication, but I teach this only in my Basic ESP and Intuition Development seminar. If you are interested to know more about the training program, you may call my office at 8926806 or 8107245.

2. "How can a person avoid *kulam* or *usog*? Is there a simple way? Why are some people susceptible to this while others are not?"

The word *usog* usually refers to small children or babies who get sick when greeted or touched by another person. And the usual remedy prescribed by local healers is for the person who caused the *usog* to apply his/her saliva on the forehead of the child who usually gets well immediately.

I understand *usog* is caused by the energy of the child being suddenly drained by another person unintentionally or unconsciously. The child's protective aura is still weak and thin and, therefore, more easily penetrated or punctured.

Kulam is the Tagalog term for sorcery or black magic. It is doing harm to another by some occult ritual or process, usually involving incantations, some re-presentation of the victim, such as picture, doll or likeness.

To remove or counteract the effects of *kulam*, one needs special training. It can't be done just by anyone. Powerful sorcerers have been known to attack the healer who tries to remove the *kulam*, so there is danger here.

Some people are susceptible to *kulam* because they may be physically or psychologically weak. Those who have weak willpower are more susceptible to *kulam* than those who are strong-willed.

3. "Is there truth about destiny? The Bible says humans may have plans but the Lord determines the final outcome."

I am not familiar with that passage in the Bible. Anyway, what I know and believe is this: There is no predestination except what we ourselves have freely chosen to be. I believe that a person's will is absolutely free. He/she determines what will happen to him/her, not God. God gave us free will to exercise. If God interferes with our free will, he will be contradicting himself, and he can't do that.

4. "My brother, a Muslim convert, told me about the jinn. According to him, simultaneous with the birth of a person is also the existence of his/her counterpart jinn. The jinns can mimic everything that people do. When a person dies ahead of the jinn, the jinn is mistaken for a ghost, doing the same things the dead used to do. But when the jinn dies ahead of a person there will be no manifestation. Will you enlighten me on this?"

I guess you will have to ask a Muslim priest or mullah to answer that question authoritatively. I am not familiar with the Muslim religion. Maybe there should be a course in our school that will teach students about the major religions we have in this country, not only Catholicism.

5. "Can you tell something about people even if you don't personally see them, like can you (have) vibes about me *kahit* with this e-mail *lang*?"

No, I can't. Neither do I want to do this even if I could. I am a scientific investigator or researcher of paranormal phenomena, healing and higher consciousness. I am not a fortune-teller or psychic. I don't read people, nor predict the future.

6. "Aside from your radio program over DZMM, will you have a television program? I hope you will have one soon."

No, I don't have a TV program of my own, although I have appeared on many television programs both here and abroad. There is a lot of interest in the topics I discuss in this column but we cannot find enough sponsors who will put money into such a program even if it is very educational and entertaining at the same time. But who knows?

Note: For information on seminars I conduct, books I have written and other services I offer, please call 8107245 and 8926806.

UP president Emerlinda Roman, with centennial committee members and guests, at the unveiling of the centennial monument

UPCM marks centennial

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE Philippines College of Medicine (UPCM), the country's premier medical education, marked its centennial anniversary recently.

The event was dedicated to the college's many graduates and the people running the institution, according to dean Dr. Cecilia Tomas.

To mark the occasion, a Centennial Mass and Interfaith Prayer was held, followed by planting of the centennial tree, laying of time capsule, unveiling of the centennial monument at the UPCM front garden, and groundbreaking of the Faculty Hall.

The celebration also featured "Siyento: 100 Years of Heritage" awards night and musical gala, and the launch of the centennial commemorative book, "Siyento," documenting the UPCM's first 100 years.

The college paid tribute to UPCM graduates who contributed to the development of national health. It presented the Centennial Lifetime Achievement Awards to seven outstanding alumni: Dr. Paulo C. Campos, Dr. Conrado S. Dayrit, Dr. Fe del Mundo, Dr. Geminiano de Ocampo, Dr. Nelia P. Cortes-Maramba, Dr. Juan S. Salcedo Jr., and Dr. Perla Santos Ocampo.

Skin clinic has new branch

WHITE BEAUTY PHILIPPINES Skin Center, the sole distributor of Met Tathione L-Glutathione Dietary Supplement, recently opened its second branch, now called White Beauty Aesthetic Center, along West Ave., Quezon City. Cory Quirino led the ribbon-cutting ceremony together with former beauty queens Evangeline Pascual and Daisy Reyes.

Aesthetician Olai Ramos-Espiritu, president of White Beauty Aesthetic Center, leads a dynamic team of beauty experts such as Dr. Almond Derla, aesthetic dermatologist, and Dr. Manolito Ferreol, plastic, reconstructive and cosmetic surgeon and head of the surgery department of World City Medical Center.

The center offers first-rate services which include facials, mesotherapy, aesthetic dermatology such as nonsurgical facelift, dermafillers, botox and permanent makeup. Cosmetic surgeries are performed in an operating room to assure clients of privacy and confidentiality.

White Beauty Aesthetic Center is at 2/F West City Plaza, 66 West Ave., QC (3764871-72/0920-9230528); Unit 519 5/F Cityland Shaw Tower, Shaw Blvd. cor. St. Francis St., Mandaluyong City (6372567, 9145063).

Feel and look good

OASIS AT THE 12TH HEALTH Enhancement Center at St. Luke's Medical Center (SLMC) in Quezon City is a pioneering hospital-based salon and spa facility.

It aims to provide salon and spa services to hospital patients to support and complement the medical care they receive at SLMC.

With these complementary services, the hospital hopes to make its patients "Look Good and Feel Good!"

At Oasis, an experienced and friendly staff can provide patients with salon and popular spa services during their stay at SLMC. The services are offered to patients and their companions in their own rooms, and with the approval of the attending physician.

Patients can also go to Oasis at Room 1216 of the South Tower at the Cathedral Heights Complex (CHBC) of SLMC.

Services are reasonably priced.

Oasis at the 12th also provides services for patients who suffer side effects that affect their appearance because of their condition, illness and/or treatment. Among other things, patients can avail of wig-fitting and styling, and makeover/makeup or "camouflaging."

The spa is also open to outpatients, visitors, staff and doctors of SLMC, and the general public.